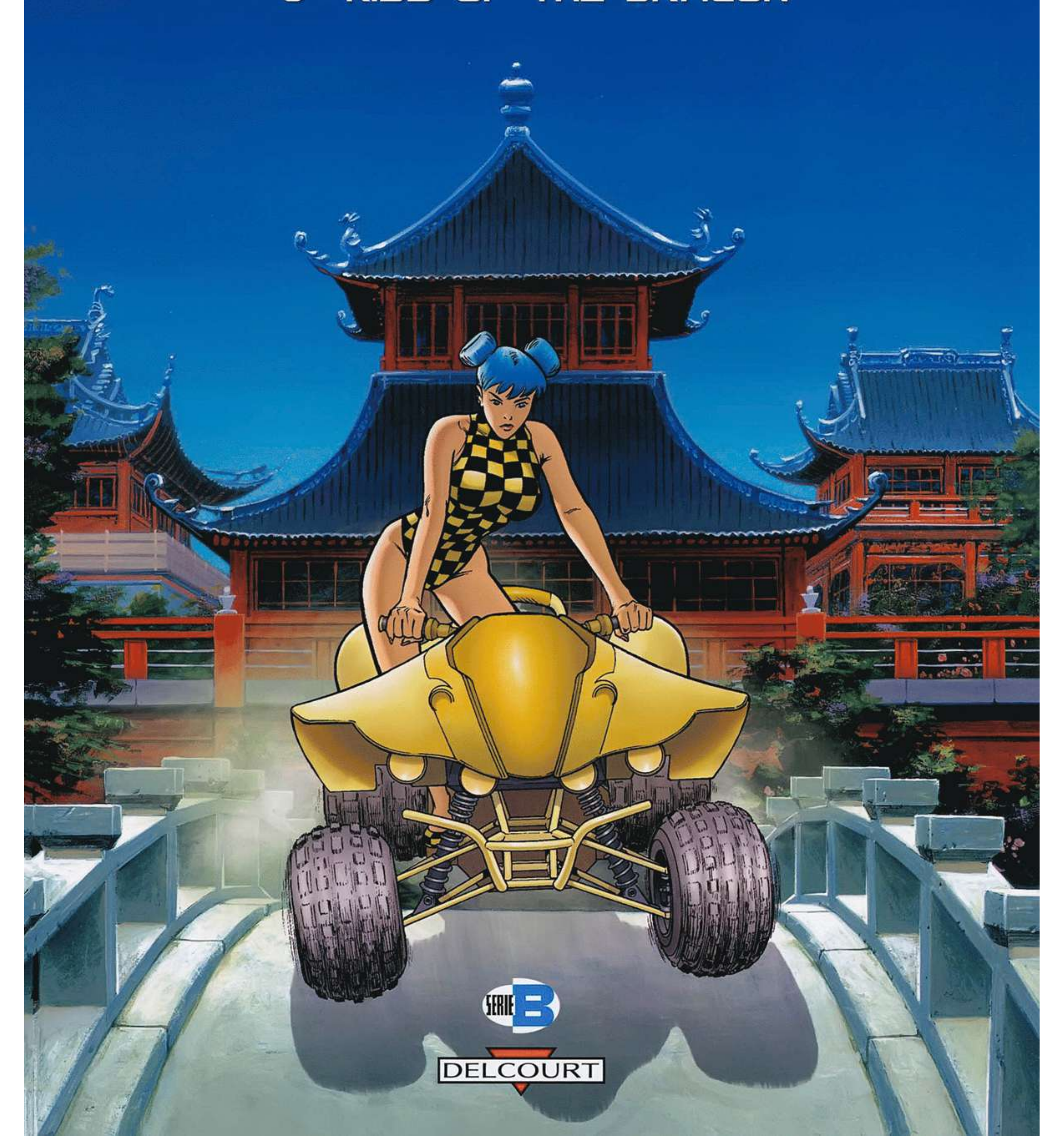
PECQUEUR ▪ HENRIET ▪ USAGI

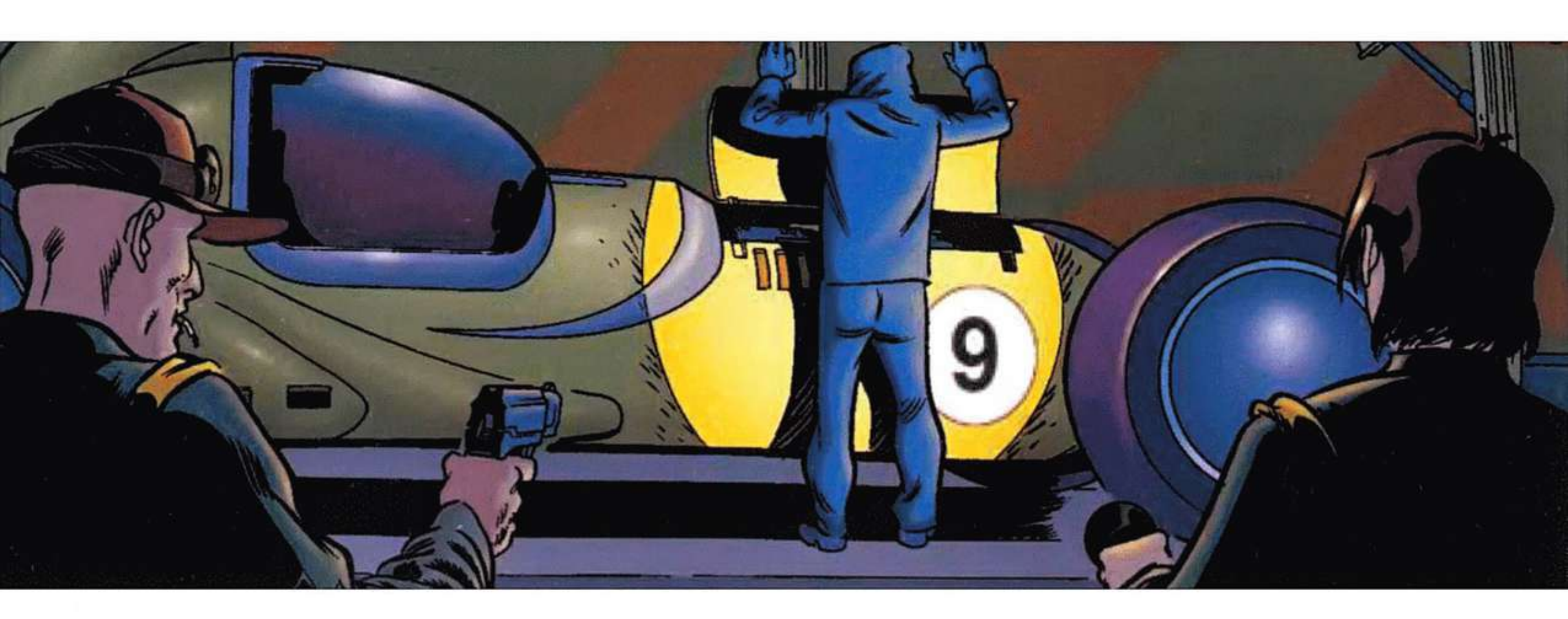
Golden Cup

5 • KISS OF THE DRAGON





5 • KISS OF THE DRAGON



TEXT
DANIEL PECQUEUR

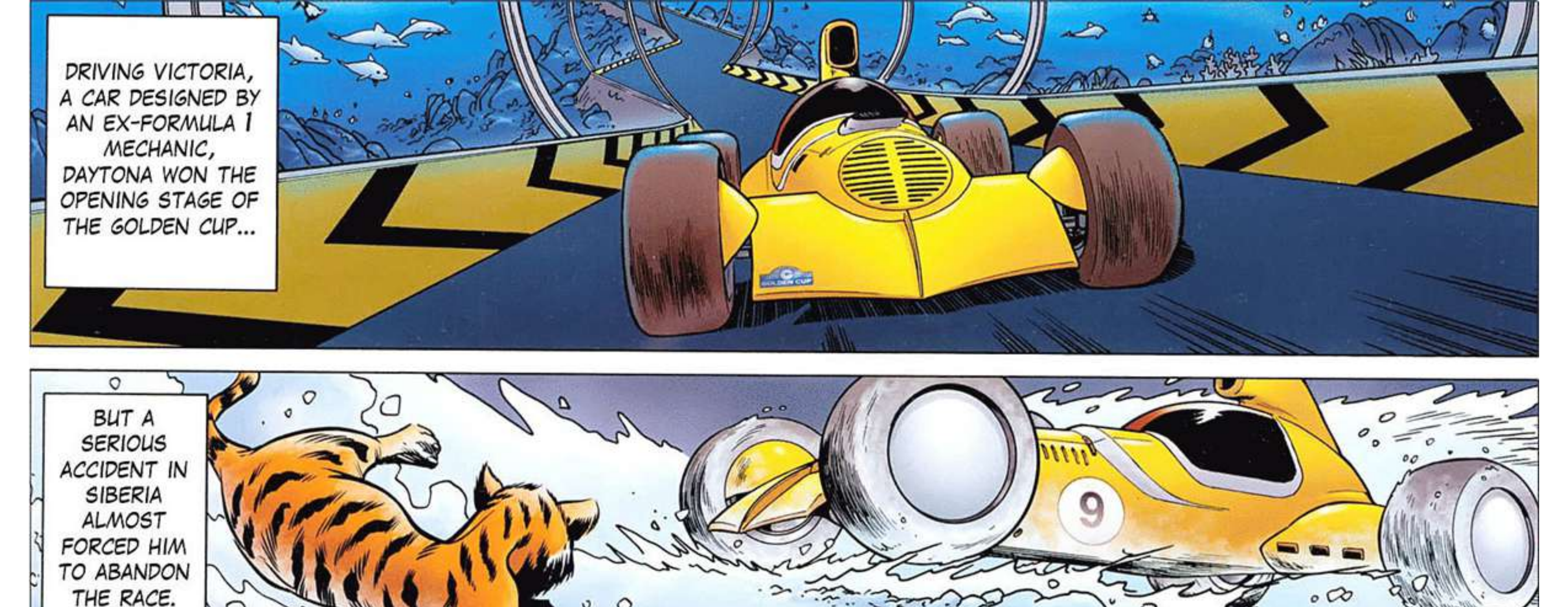
ART
ALAIN HENRIET

COLORS
USAGI

COVER DESIGN
ALAIN HENRIET & MANCHU

SCANLATION
ALICE





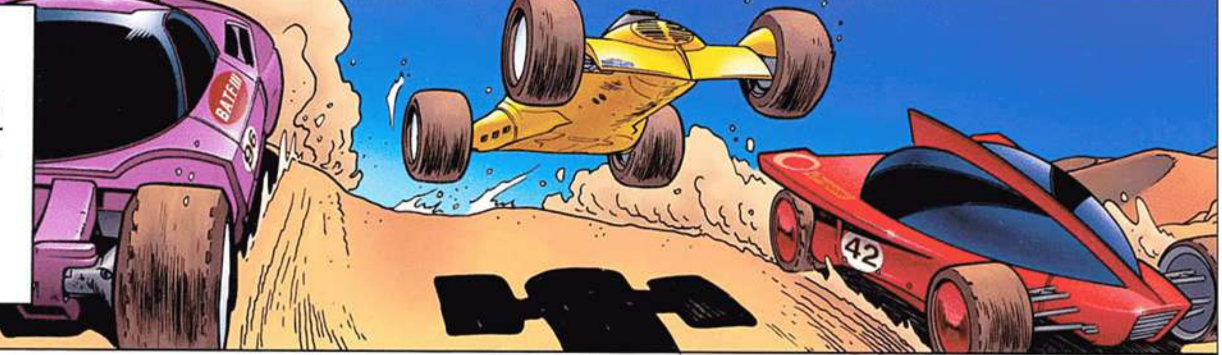
BUT A SERIOUS ACCIDENT IN SIBERIA ALMOST FORCED HIM TO ABANDON THE RACE.



HOWEVER, HE WAS RESCUED BY THE LOVELY DOUDINKA AND WAS ABLE TO CONTINUE.

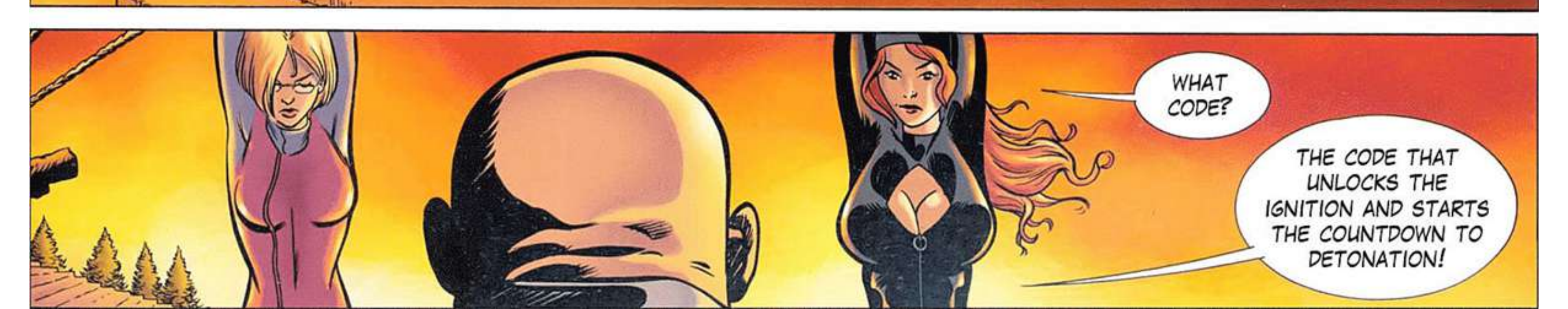
THIS IS FOR YOU TO WEAR. IT'S A NENET TALISMAN TO KEEP YOU SAFE UNTIL THE END OF THE GOLDEN CUP.

NOW RELEGATED TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RANKINGS, HE DIDN'T ADMIT DEFEAT. ON THE CONTRARY! MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER, HE TOOK HUGE RISKS DURING THE CROSSING OF THE GOBI DESERT TO SAVE TIME AND HAUL IN THE LEADERS.



AMONG THEM IS HIS FRIEND, BRENDA, WHO ALONG WITH HER CO-DRIVER WAS KIDNAPPED BY ARMED BANDITS SHORTLY AFTER CROSSING THE CHINESE BORDER.

I KNOW FOR A FACT THAT YOU'RE TRANSPORTING A BOMB IN YOUR TRUCK. GIVE ME THE CODE!




GIVE IT TO ME AND YOU'LL LIVE.
NEVER!
AS YOU WISH. YOUR STUBBORNNESS FORCES ME TO TAKE EXTREME MEASURES.


IT'S YOUR TURN, BOYS.







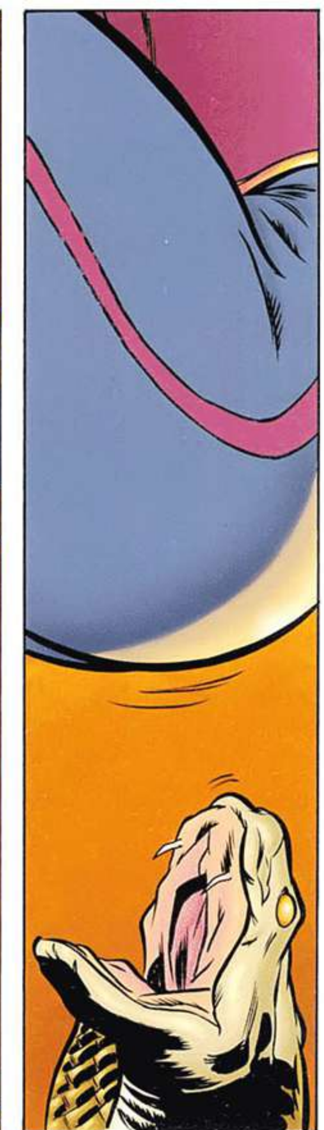



GO AHEAD. LOWER THEM SLOWLY.

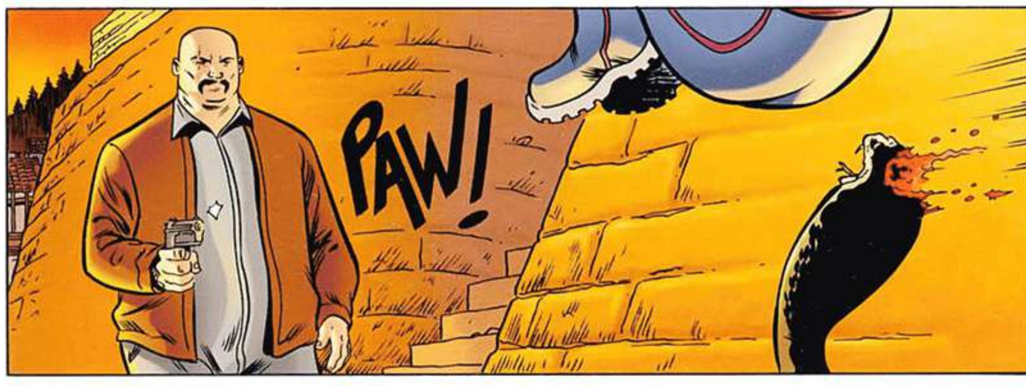

NO! I BEG YOU!
I HATE SNAKES!
STOP! I... I'LL GIVE YOU THE CODE!


IF YOU GIVE THEM THE CODE THEY'LL KILL US. IT'S ALL THEY NEED US FOR. IF YOU HOPE TO SURVIVE, SHUT UP!


AAAHHH!



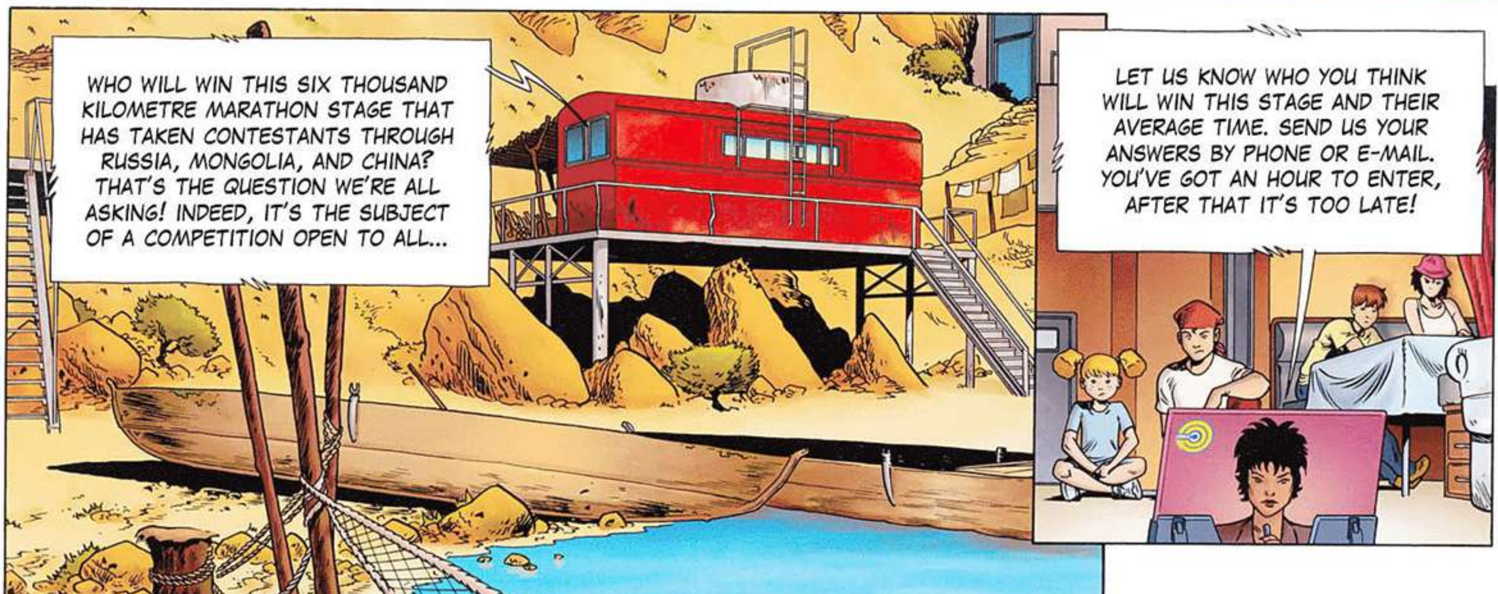

3412 BXUV 16 !


PAW!


GOOD, NOW LET'S GET TO WORK. LOAD THE TRUCK ON THE HELICOPTER.


AND THEM?
SHOULD WE KILL THEM?
NOT YET. TAKE THEM TO BEIJING.

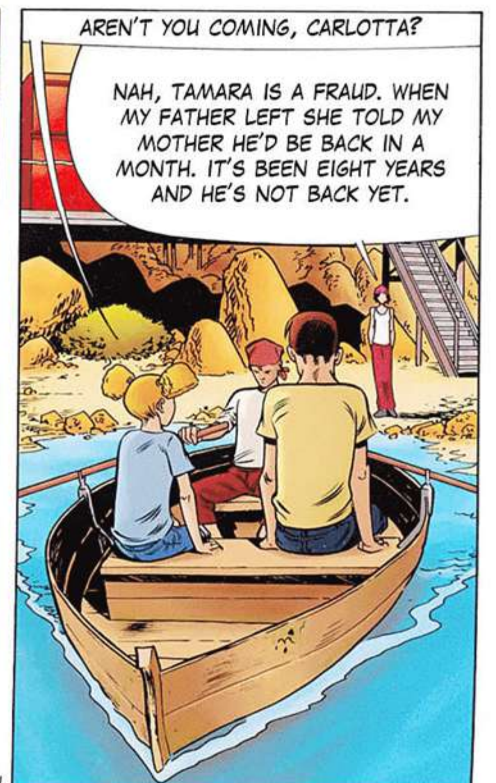

WELCOME TO BEIJING AND TIANANMEN SQUARE, WHERE THE SURVIVORS OF THE GOLDEN CUP WILL ARRIVE TOMORROW MORNING!
AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE'S AN ELECTRIC ATMOSPHERE IN THE SQUARE. THE MECHANICS FROM THE VARIOUS TEAMS ARE HASTILY UNLOADING SEMI-TRAILERS THAT WERE DISPATCHED BY AIR FROM SIBERIA.
Smart


WHO WILL WIN THIS SIX THOUSAND KILOMETRE MARATHON STAGE THAT HAS TAKEN CONTESTANTS THROUGH RUSSIA, MONGOLIA, AND CHINA? THAT'S THE QUESTION WE'RE ALL ASKING! INDEED, IT'S THE SUBJECT OF A COMPETITION OPEN TO ALL...
LET US KNOW WHO YOU THINK WILL WIN THIS STAGE AND THEIR AVERAGE TIME. SEND US YOUR ANSWERS BY PHONE OR E-MAIL. YOU'VE GOT AN HOUR TO ENTER, AFTER THAT IT'S TOO LATE!

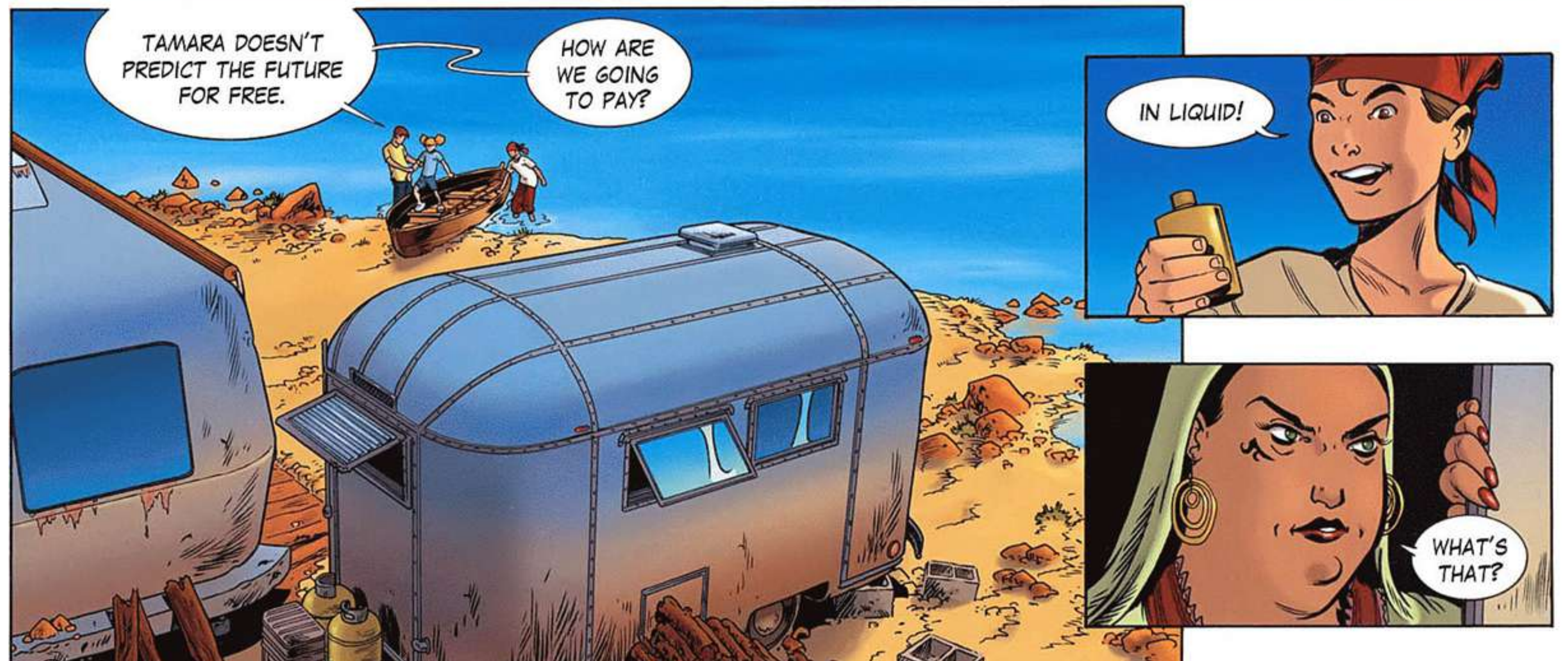

THE WINNER WILL RECEIVE A CHECK FOR ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS AND A TRIP TO GOLDEN CITY NEXT MONTH TO WATCH THE FINISH OF THE GOLDEN CUP LIVE! GOOD LUCK TO ALL, AND SEE YOU SOON!


WE SHOULD ENTER THE CONTEST! I BET DAYTONA WILL FINISH FIRST!
NO WAY! HE DOESN'T STAND A CHANCE AGAINST THE OFFICIAL FACTORY TEAMS. IT WON'T BE HIM. IT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
THEN WHO?

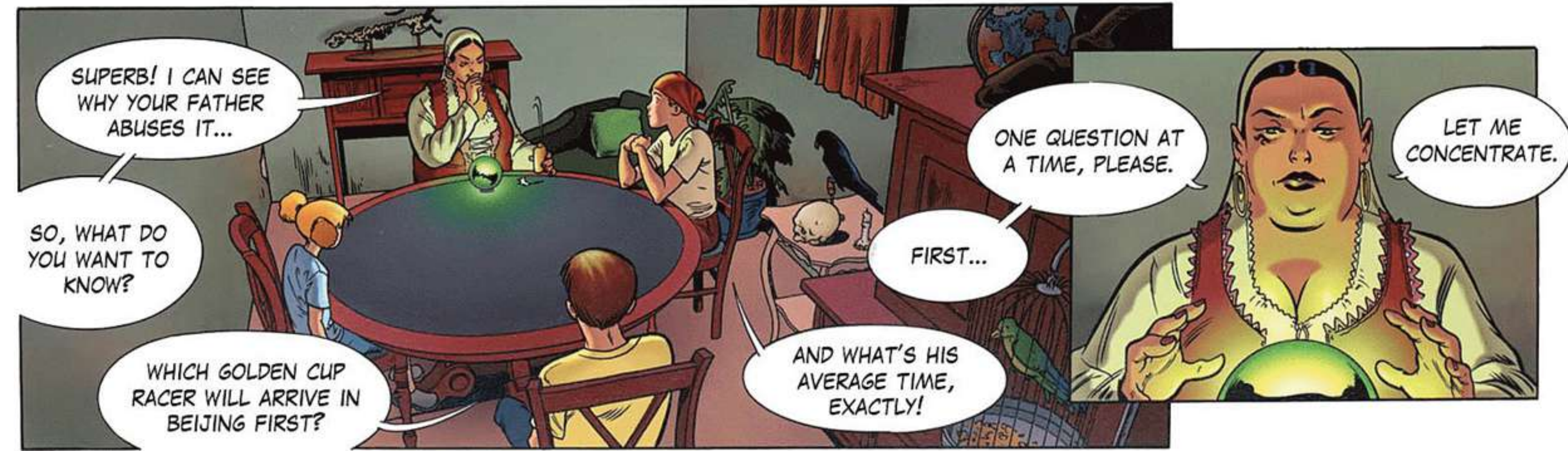

WHO KNOWS? WE SHOULD ASK TAMARA! SHE CAN SEE THE FUTURE IN HER CRYSTAL BALL!
GREAT IDEA!


AREN'T YOU COMING, CARLOTTA?
NAH, TAMARA IS A FRAUD. WHEN MY FATHER LEFT SHE TOLD MY MOTHER HE'D BE BACK IN A MONTH. IT'S BEEN EIGHT YEARS AND HE'S NOT BACK YET.

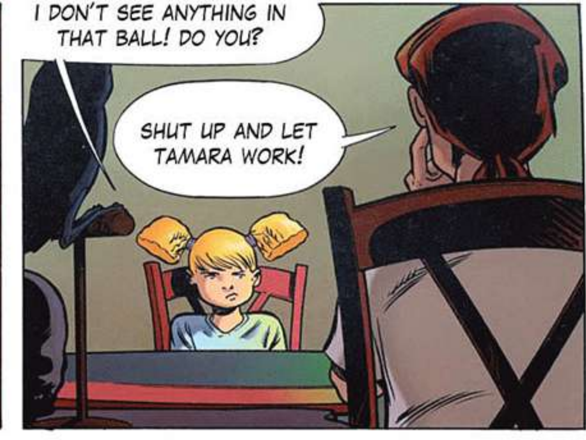

I'VE GOT NO MONEY ON ME. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
NO.
ME NEITHER. WHY DO YOU ASK?


TAMARA DOESN'T PREDICT THE FUTURE FOR FREE.
HOW ARE WE GOING TO PAY?
IN LIQUID!
WHAT'S THAT?

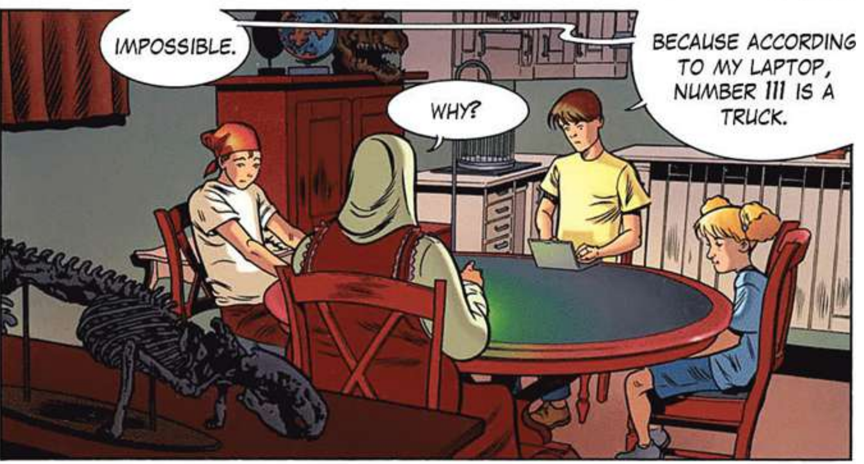

IT'S TEQUILA. I SWIPED IT FROM MY DAD. IT'S THE LITTLE HE DIDN'T DRINK.


SUPERB! I CAN SEE WHY YOUR FATHER ABUSES IT...
SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO KNOW?
WHICH GOLDEN CUP RACER WILL ARRIVE IN BEIJING FIRST?
AND WHAT'S HIS AVERAGE TIME, EXACTLY!
FIRST...
ONE QUESTION AT A TIME, PLEASE.
LET ME CONCENTRATE.

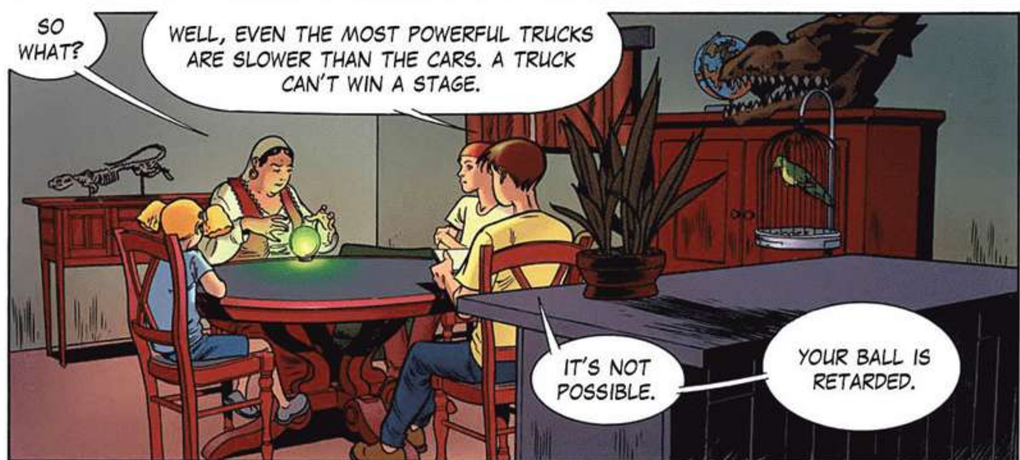

AH! HERE IT IS! I SEE SOMETHING...
WHAT?
A RED VEHICLE WITH... A NUMBER...

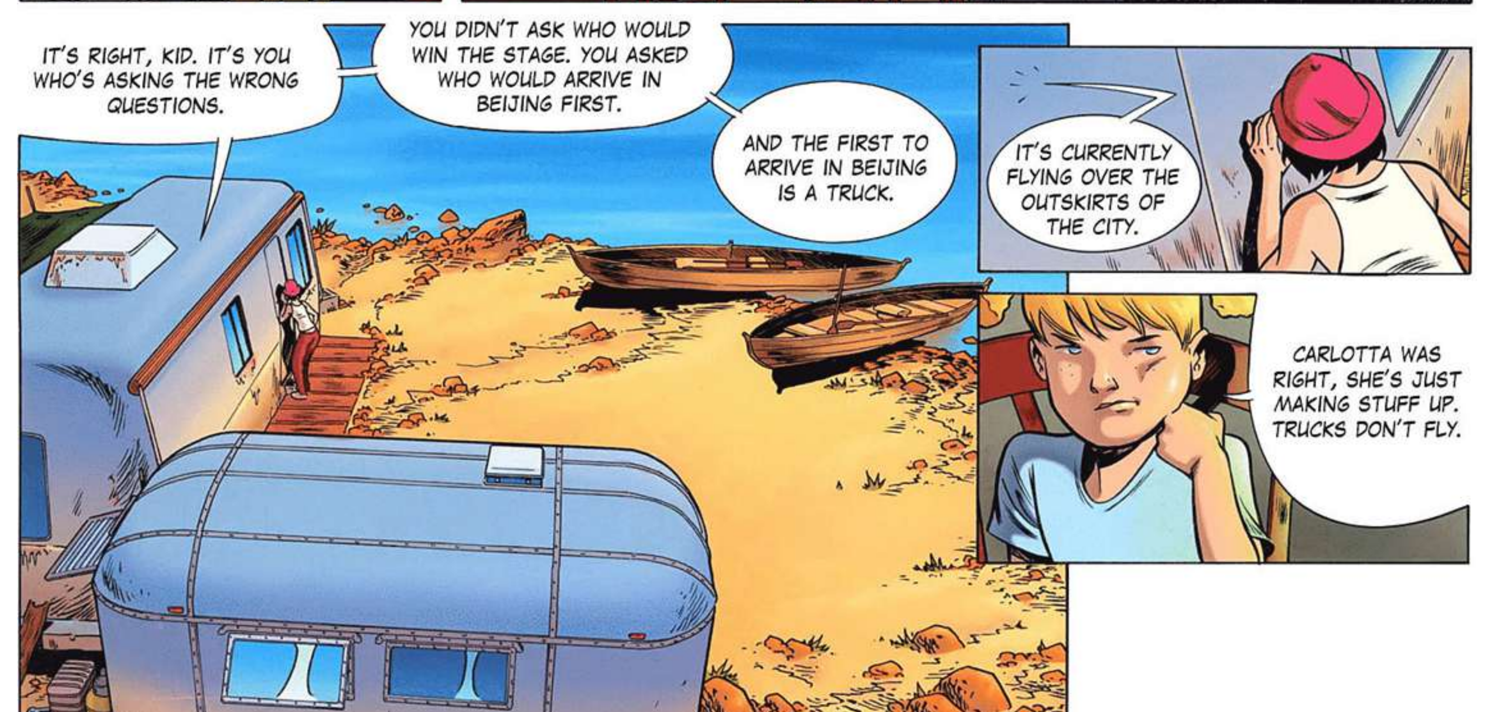

I DON'T SEE ANYTHING IN THAT BALL! DO YOU?
SHUT UP AND LET TAMARA WORK!


WHICH NUMBER?
111.

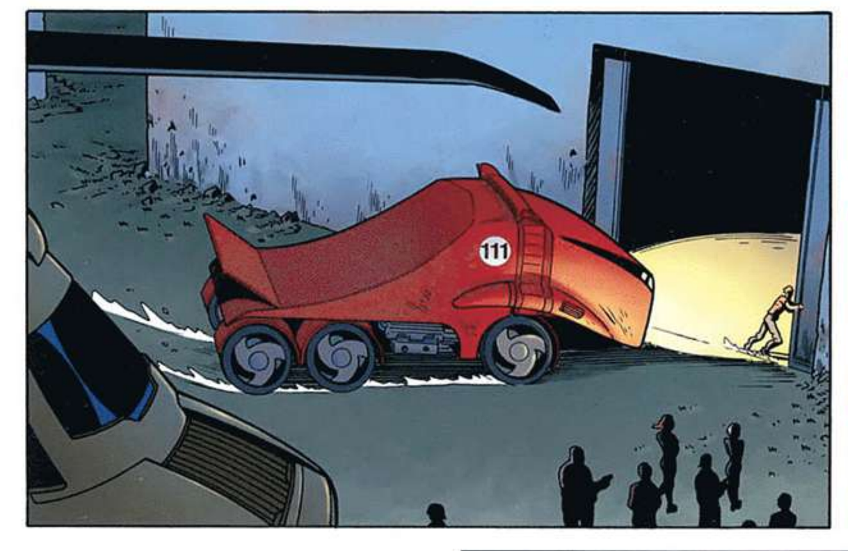

IMPOSSIBLE.
WHY?
BECAUSE ACCORDING TO MY LAPTOP, NUMBER 111 IS A TRUCK.


HERE, LOOK!
109

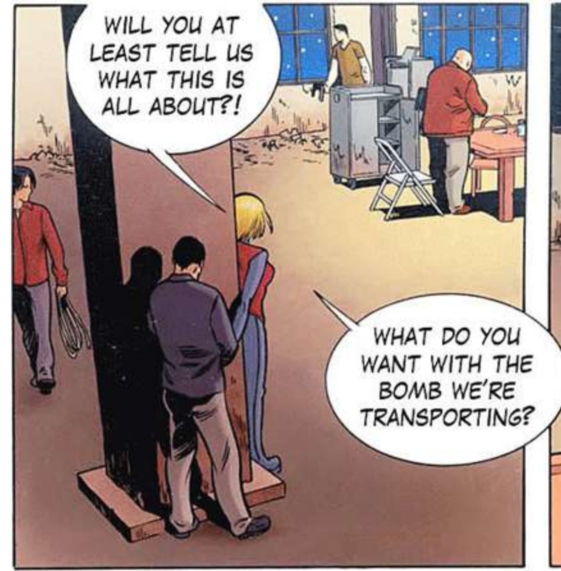

SO WHAT?
WELL, EVEN THE MOST POWERFUL TRUCKS ARE SLOWER THAN THE CARS. A TRUCK CAN'T WIN A STAGE.
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE.
YOUR BALL IS RETARDED.


IT'S RIGHT, KID. IT'S YOU WHO'S ASKING THE WRONG QUESTIONS.
YOU DIDN'T ASK WHO WOULD WIN THE STAGE. YOU ASKED WHO WOULD ARRIVE IN BEIJING FIRST.
AND THE FIRST TO ARRIVE IN BEIJING IS A TRUCK.
IT'S CURRENTLY FLYING OVER THE OUTSKIRTS OF THE CITY.
CARLOTTA WAS RIGHT, SHE'S JUST MAKING STUFF UP. TRUCKS DON'T FLY.

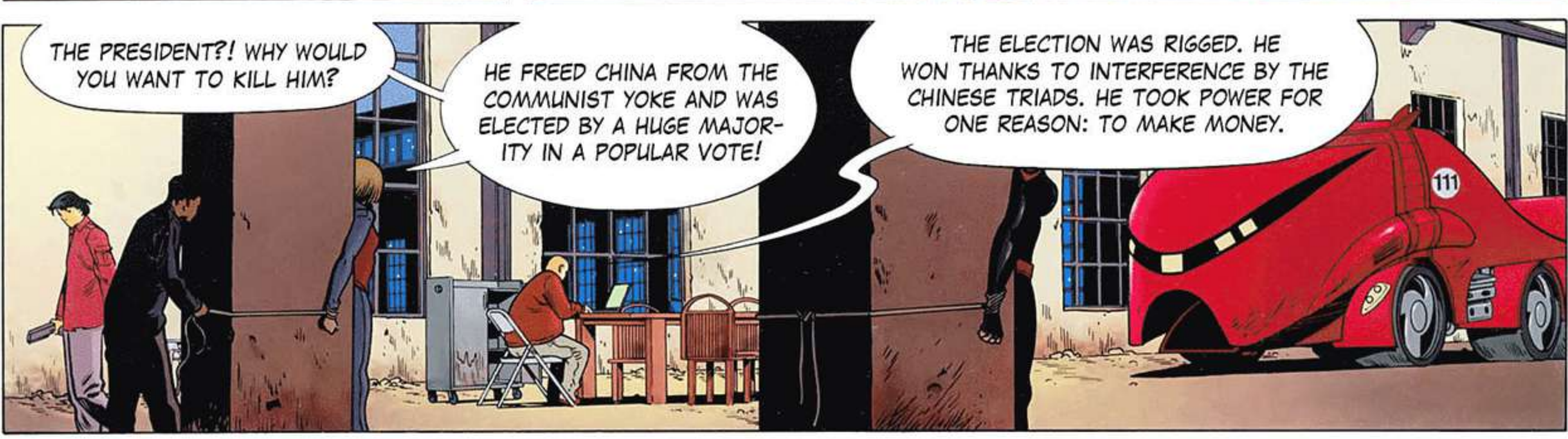

UNLESS IT'S INSIDE A HELICOPTER, WHICH IS THE CASE HERE.

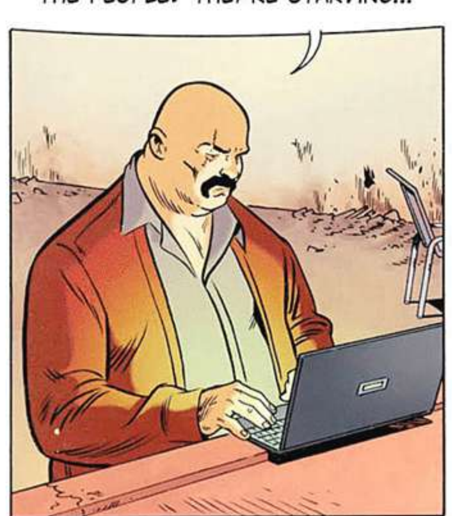


111

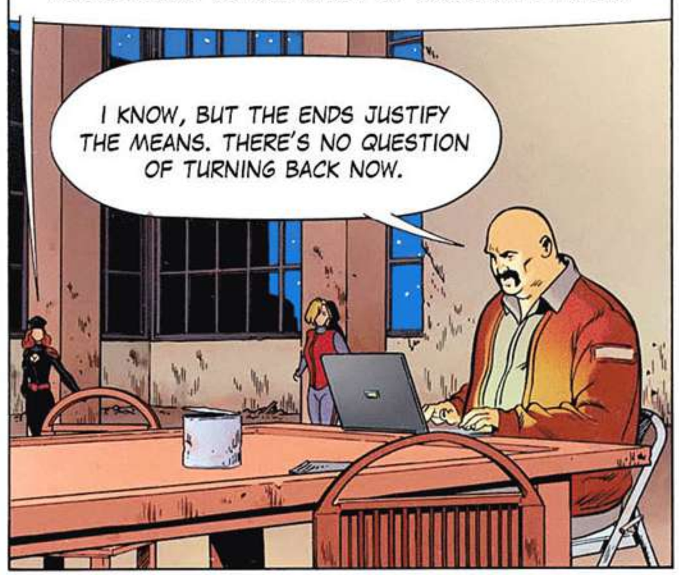

TIE THEM TO A PILLAR!


WILL YOU AT LEAST TELL US WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT?!
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH THE BOMB WE'RE TRANSPORTING?


TO KILL TAI MO SHAN.

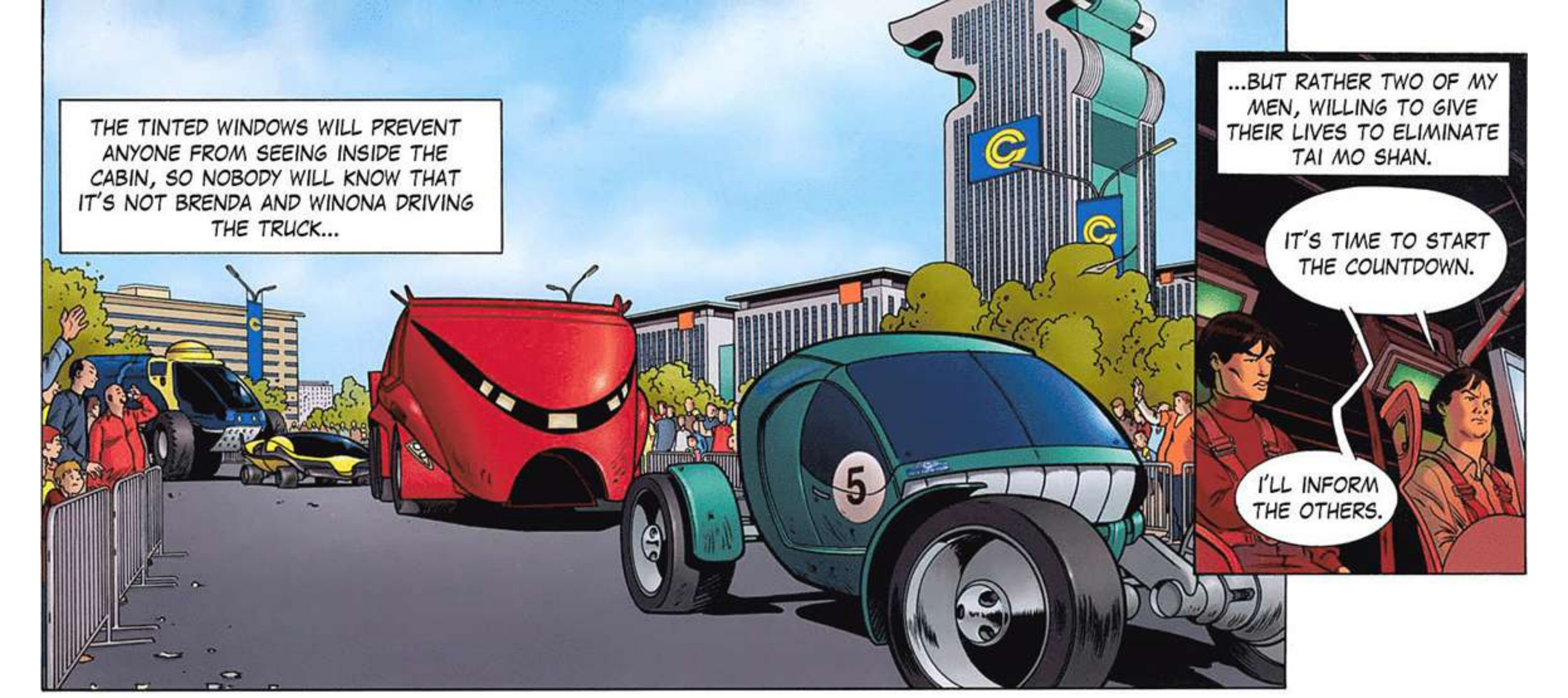

THE PRESIDENT?! WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?
HE FREED CHINA FROM THE COMMUNIST YOKE AND WAS ELECTED BY A HUGE MAJOR-ITY IN A POPULAR VOTE!
THE ELECTION WAS RIGGED. HE WON THANKS TO INTERFERENCE BY THE CHINESE TRIADS. HE TOOK POWER FOR ONE REASON: TO MAKE MONEY.
111


SINCE THE ELECTION HE AND HIS TRIAD FRIENDS HAVE PLUNDERED OUR NATIONAL RESOURCES. TODAY THEY OWN PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING. AND THE PEOPLE? THEY'RE STARVING...


MAYBE IT'S TRUE THAT THIS GUY IS A CROOK AND UP TO HIS NECK IN DIRTY MONEY. BUT THIS IS A MASSIVE BOMB. YOU'RE GOING TO KILL A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE!
I KNOW, BUT THE ENDS JUSTIFY THE MEANS. THERE'S NO QUESTION OF TURNING BACK NOW.


WE MANAGED TO GET HIS ITINERARY FROM THE CHINESE SECRET SERVICE SO WE KNOW EXACTLY WHEN HE'LL ARRIVE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE TO GIVE HIS SPEECH.


WHEN THE PRESIDENTIAL MOTORCADE LEAVES THE PALACE WE'LL SEND THE TRUCK TO REJOIN THE RACE...

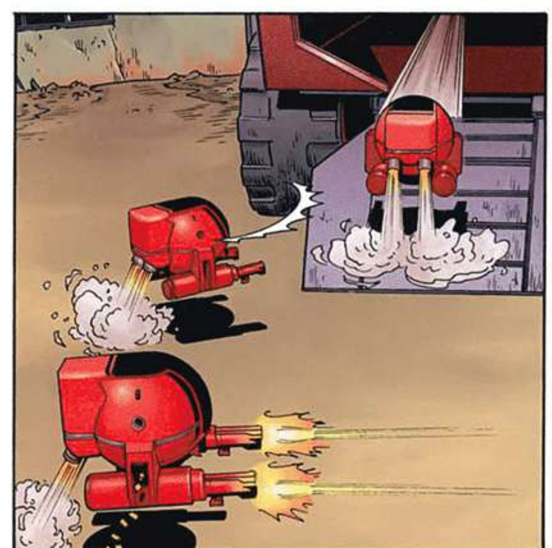

THE TINTED WINDOWS WILL PREVENT ANYONE FROM SEEING INSIDE THE CABIN, SO NOBODY WILL KNOW THAT IT'S NOT BRENDA AND WINONA DRIVING THE TRUCK...
...BUT RATHER TWO OF MY MEN, WILLING TO GIVE THEIR LIVES TO ELIMINATE TAI MO SHAN.
IT'S TIME TO START THE COUNTDOWN.
I'LL INFORM THE OTHERS.

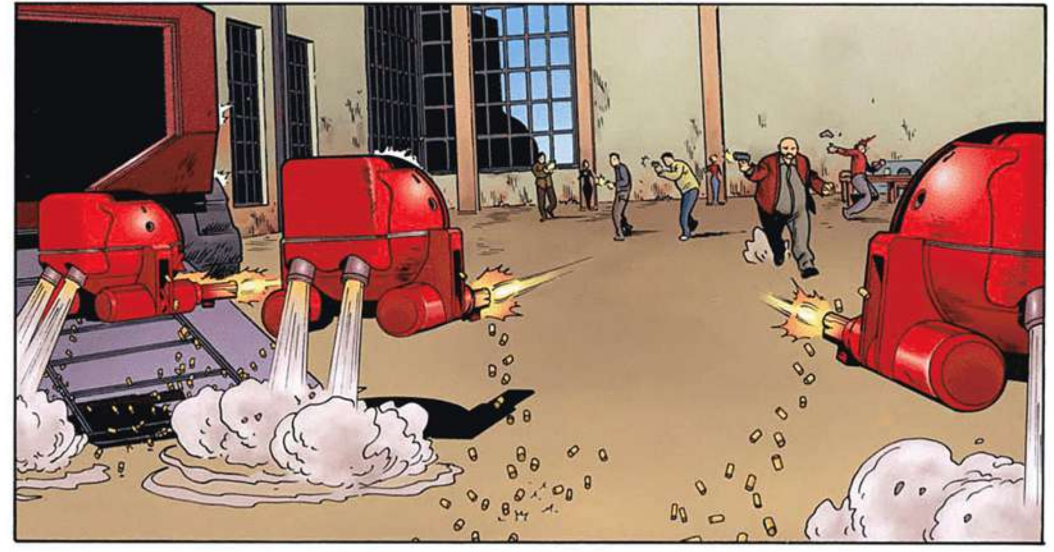

APPROACHING TIANANMEN SQUARE. THE CODE IS GOOD. WE'RE COUNTING DOWN...
HELLO?... WHERE ARE YOU?

EVERYTHING IS GOING AS PLANNED. THERE'S NO NEED TO LINGER HERE, PACK EVERYTHING UP.
AND THE GIRLS? WHAT ABOUT THEM?

KILL THEM.
I ONLY KEPT THEM ALIVE TO ENSURE THAT THE CODE WORKED.
THEY'RE OF NO FURTHER USE.



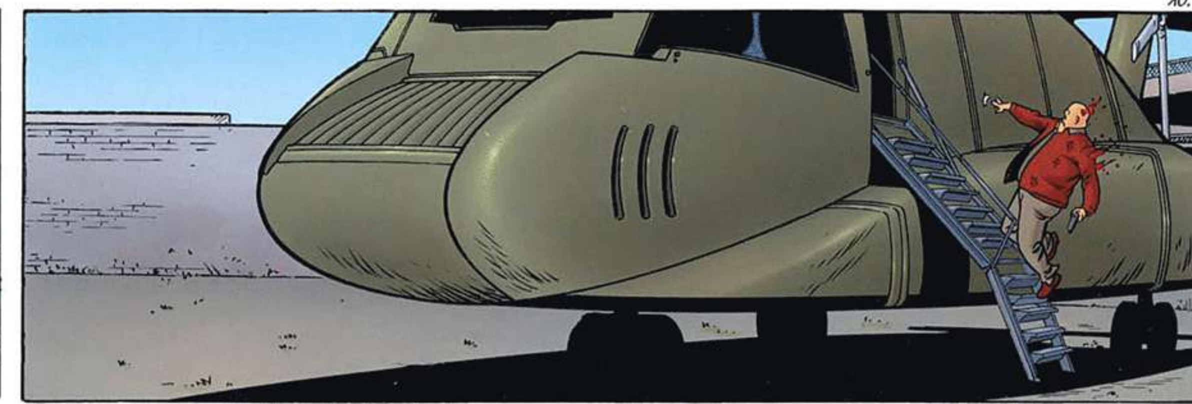



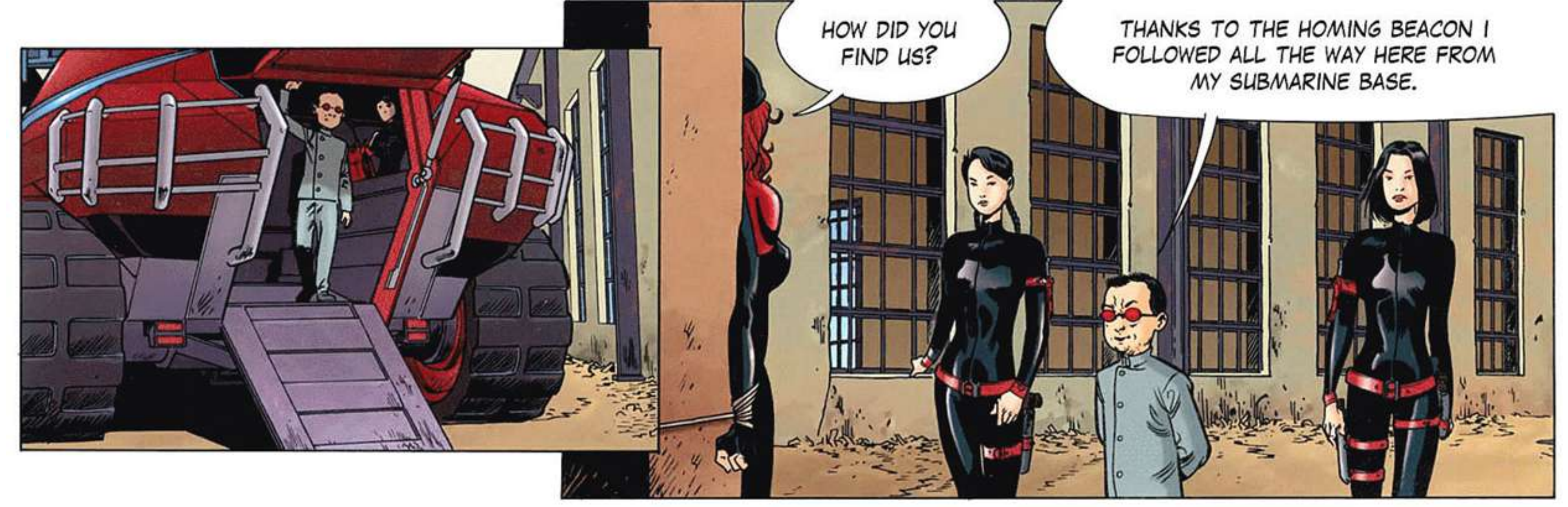


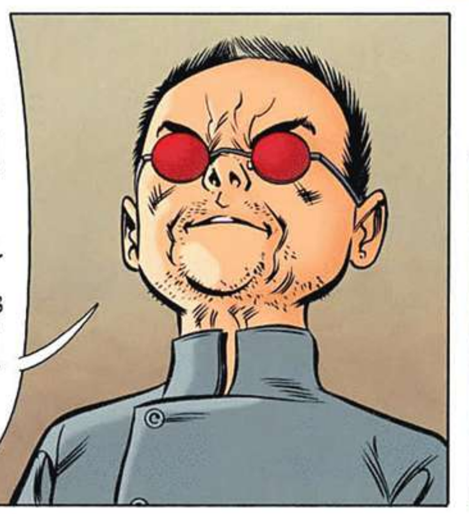


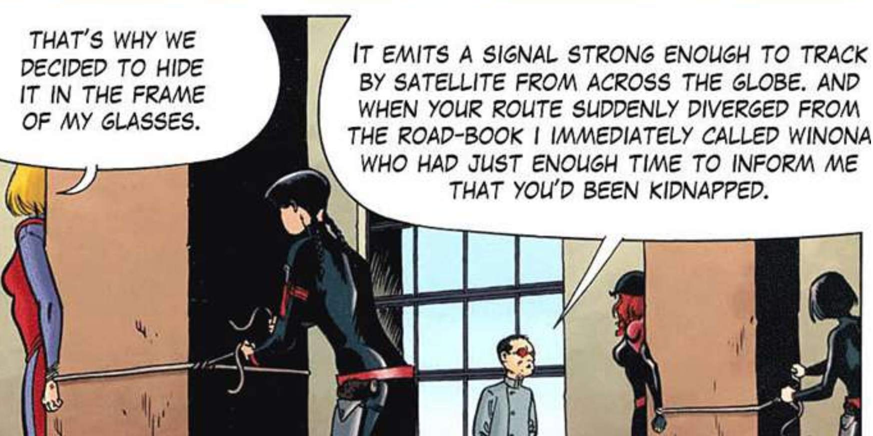


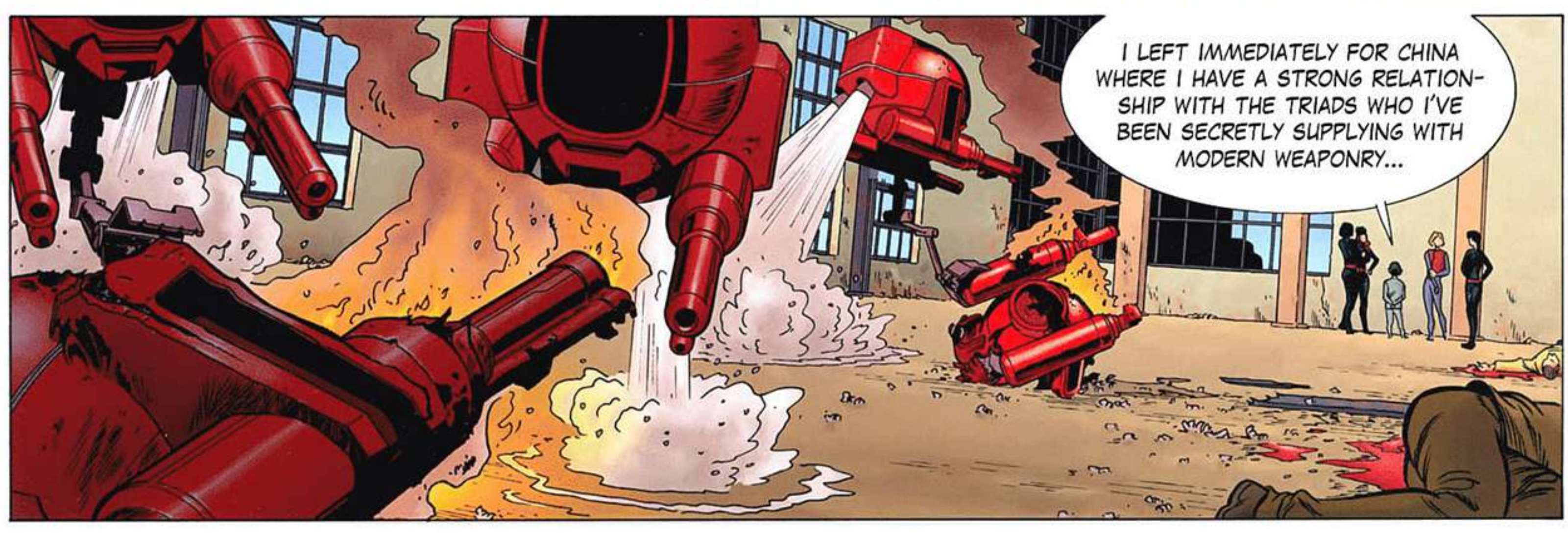




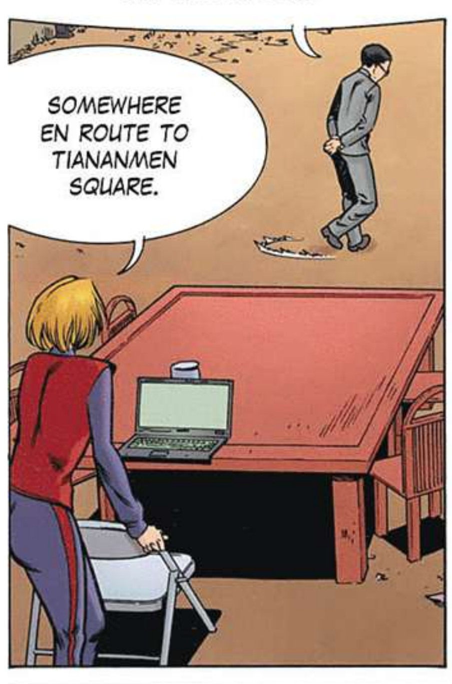

HOW DID YOU FIND US?
THANKS TO THE HOMING BEACON I FOLLOWED ALL THE WAY HERE FROM MY SUBMARINE BASE.

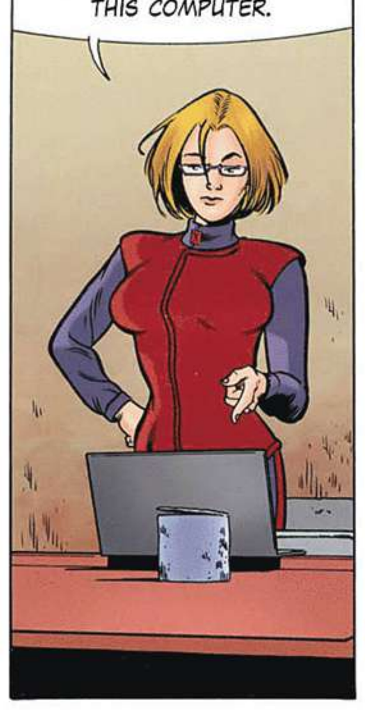

WINONA AND I HAD INITIALLY PLANNED TO PLACE IT SOMEWHERE IN THE TRUCK BUT WE COULDN'T RISK THE STEWARDS FINDING IT DURING THE TECHNICAL INSPECTION. THE GOLDEN CUP PROHIBITS ANY FORM OF GPS OR ELECTRONIC TRACKING.

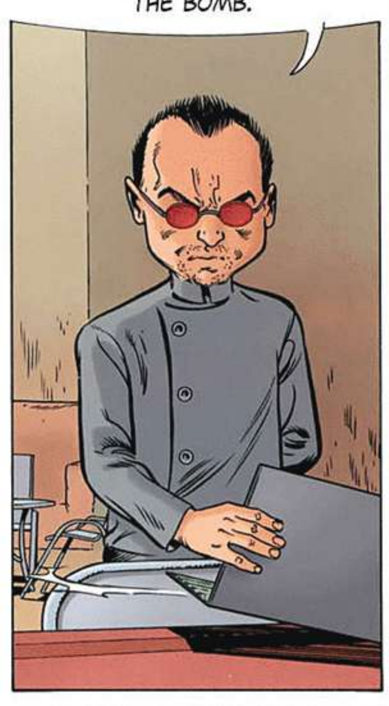

THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED TO HIDE IT IN THE FRAME OF MY GLASSES.
IT EMITS A SIGNAL STRONG ENOUGH TO TRACK BY SATELLITE FROM ACROSS THE GLOBE. AND WHEN YOUR ROUTE SUDDENLY DIVERGED FROM THE ROAD-BOOK I IMMEDIATELY CALLED WINONA WHO HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO INFORM ME THAT YOU'D BEEN KIDNAPPED.


I LEFT IMMEDIATELY FOR CHINA WHERE I HAVE A STRONG RELATION-SHIP WITH THE TRIADS WHO I'VE BEEN SECRETLY SUPPLYING WITH MODERN WEAPONRY...

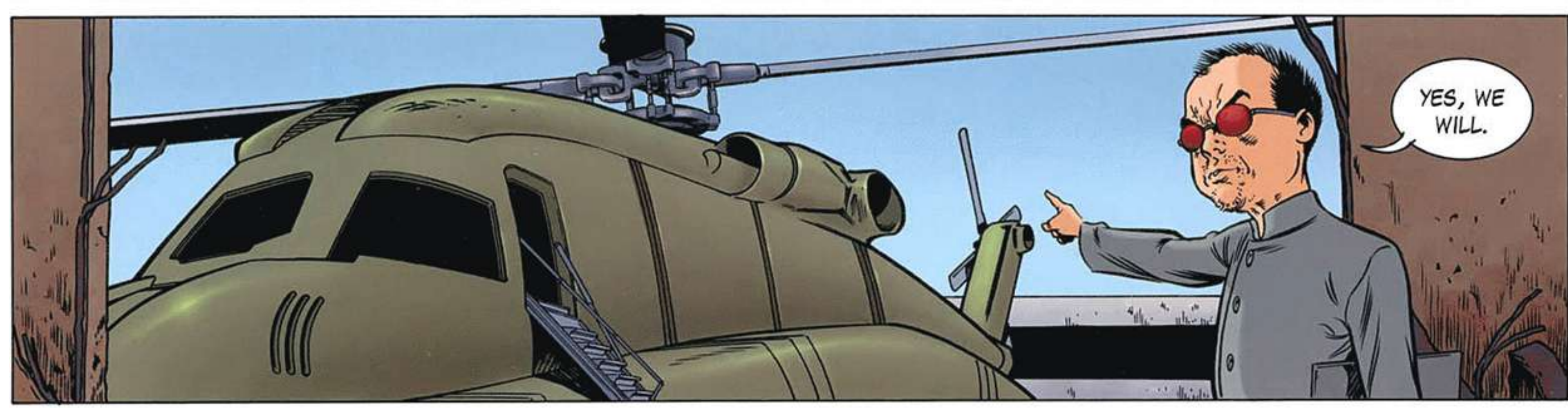

WEAPONS LIKE THE COMBAT ROBOTS THAT, ALONG WITH THESE TWO CHARMING YOUNG WOMEN, HELPED ME DO AWAY WITH YOUR CAPTORS.
NOT ALL OF THEM. TWO LEFT IN THE TRUCK. THEY'RE GOING TO USE THE BOMB TO ASSASSINATE TAI MO SHAN.
WHAT?! THAT CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO HAPPEN!


A PRESIDENTIAL ASSASSINATION WOULD SURELY PUT AN END TO THE GOLDEN CUP AND MY PLANS TO DESTROY GOLDEN CITY. DO YOU KNOW WHERE THEY PLAN TO CARRY OUT THIS ATTACK?
SOMEWHERE EN ROUTE TO TIANANMEN SQUARE.


THE ROUTE IS KEPT SECRET FOR SECURITY REASONS BUT THEY MANAGED TO OBTAIN IT, AS YOU CAN SEE FROM THIS COMPUTER.


IN THAT CASE ALL IS NOT LOST. IF WE JUST FOLLOW THE ROUTE WE HAVE A CHANCE TO FIND THEM BEFORE THEY DETONATE THE BOMB.


TRAFFIC IN THE CITY CENTRE WILL BE A NIGHTMARE TODAY.
WE'LL NEVER CATCH UP TO THEM.


YES, WE WILL.


SHOULD WE WAIT HERE?
NO!
I'LL NEED YOU TO NEUTRALIZE THE KIDNAPPERS.


WHO ARE THESE CHINESE TARTS?
THEY BELONG TO THE TRIAD OF THE RED DRAGON. THEY'RE FORMIDABLE SOLDIERS AND EXPERTS IN MARTIAL ARTS.


AND THE ROBOTS?
WE'LL RETRIEVE THEM LATER.

IT'S TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AND THE FIRST SURVIVORS OF THE ANADYR-BEIJING STAGE ARE BEGINNING TO ARRIVE IN TIANANMEN SQUARE.

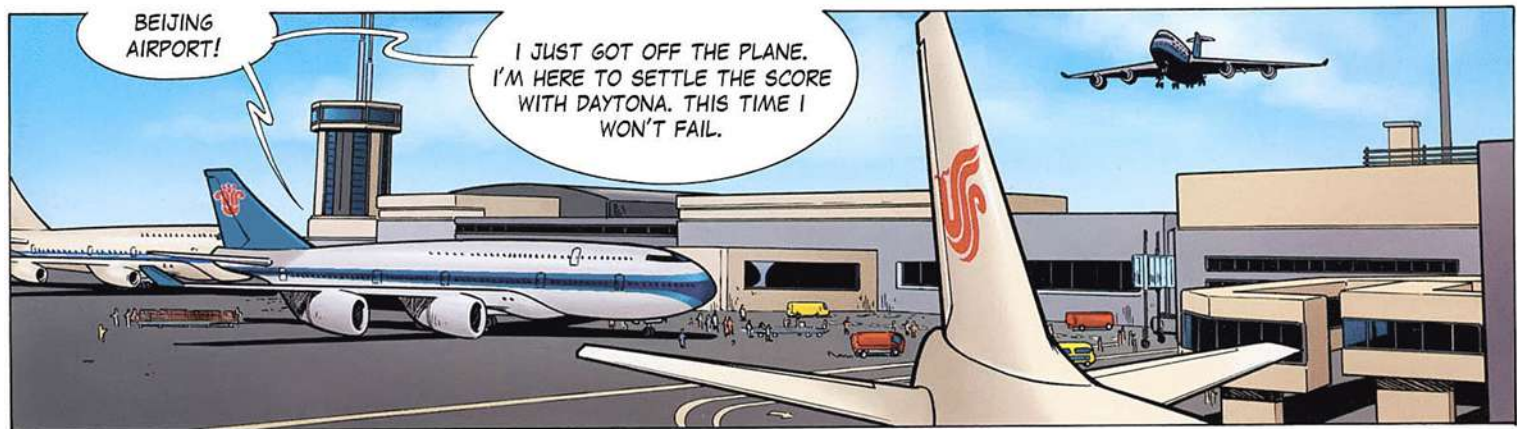
THE DRIVERS HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE WHEEL FOR FOUR DAYS, STOPPING ONLY TO REFUEL...

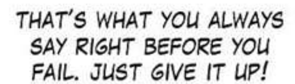
...THE FATIGUE IS EVIDENT ON THEIR FACES.

♫♫♫

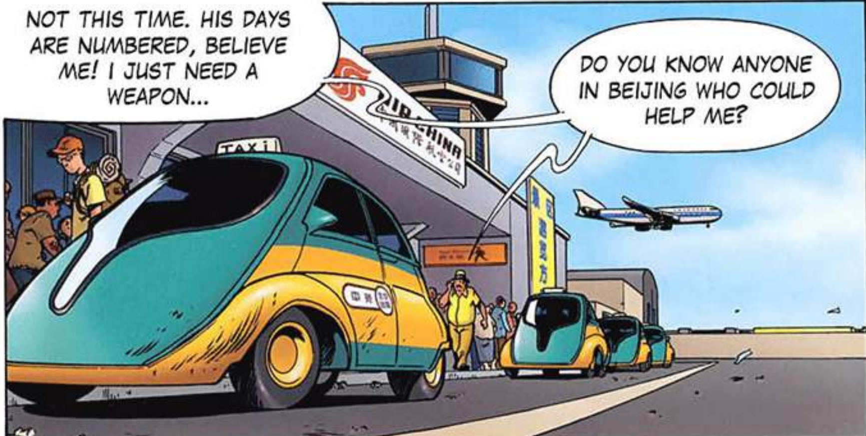
IF THE LONG STAGE WAS HARD ON THE DRIVERS, IT WAS HARDER ON THEIR MACHINES. MANY CREWS WERE FORCED TO RETIRE. OTHERS WERE LOST IN THE GOBI DESERT.

HELLO?... AH, IT'S YOU, CARUSO! WHERE ARE YOU?

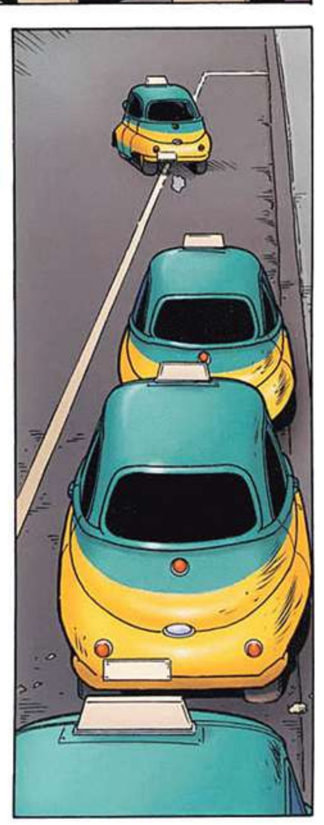


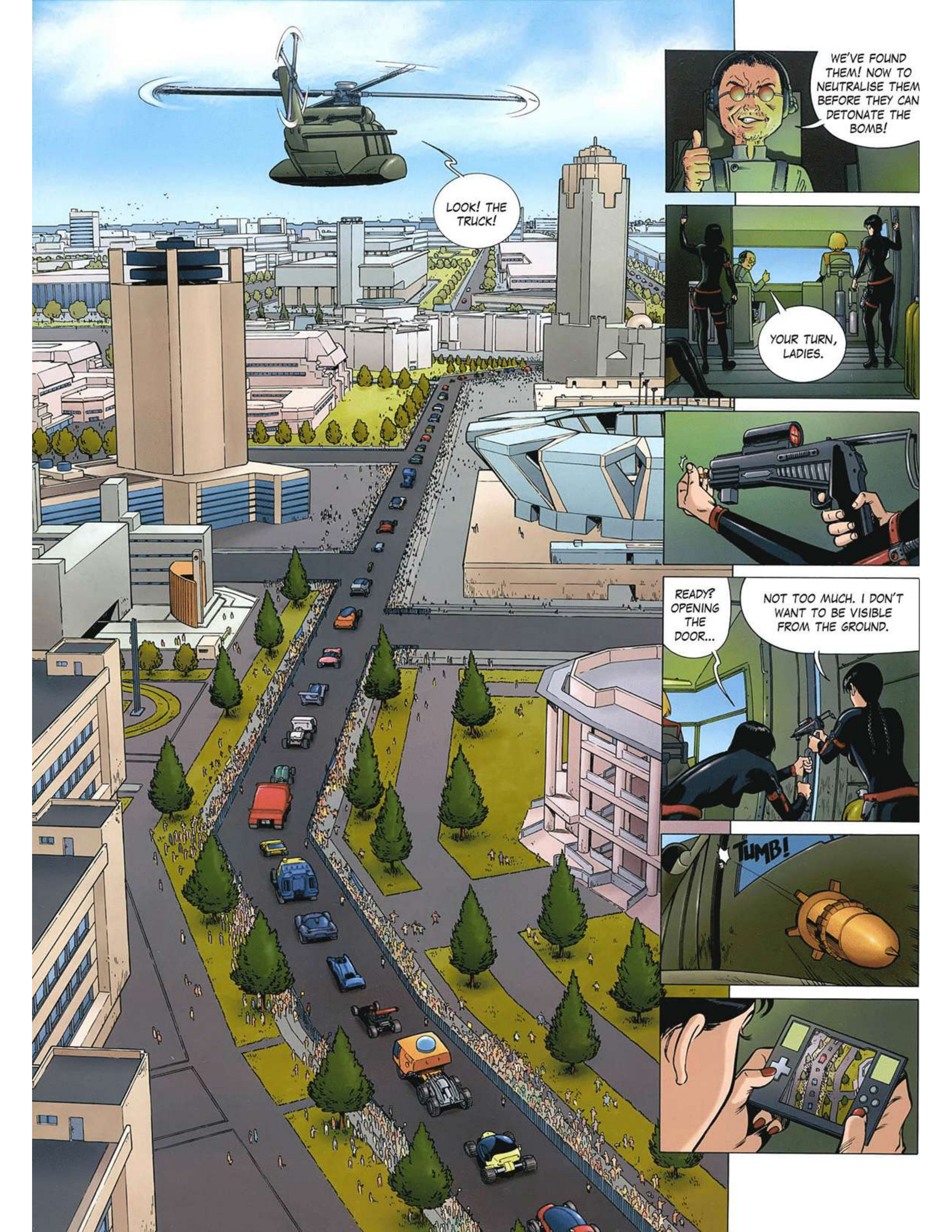


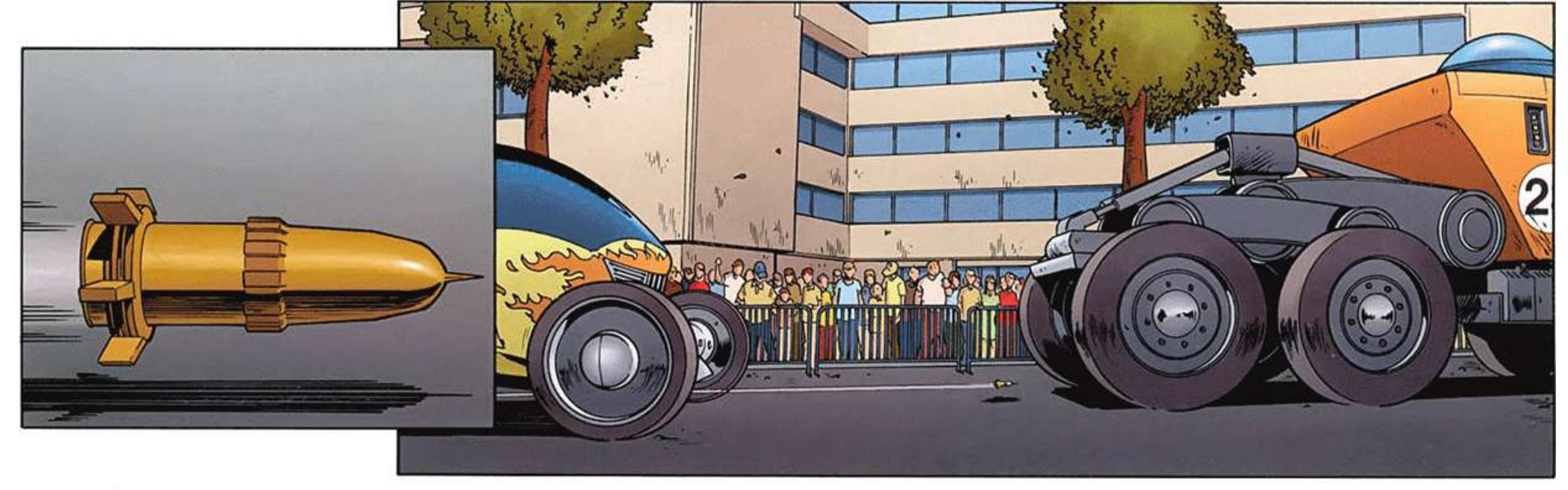
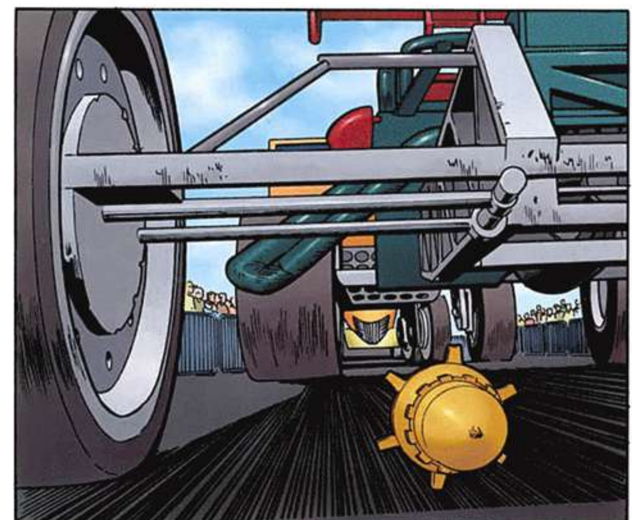


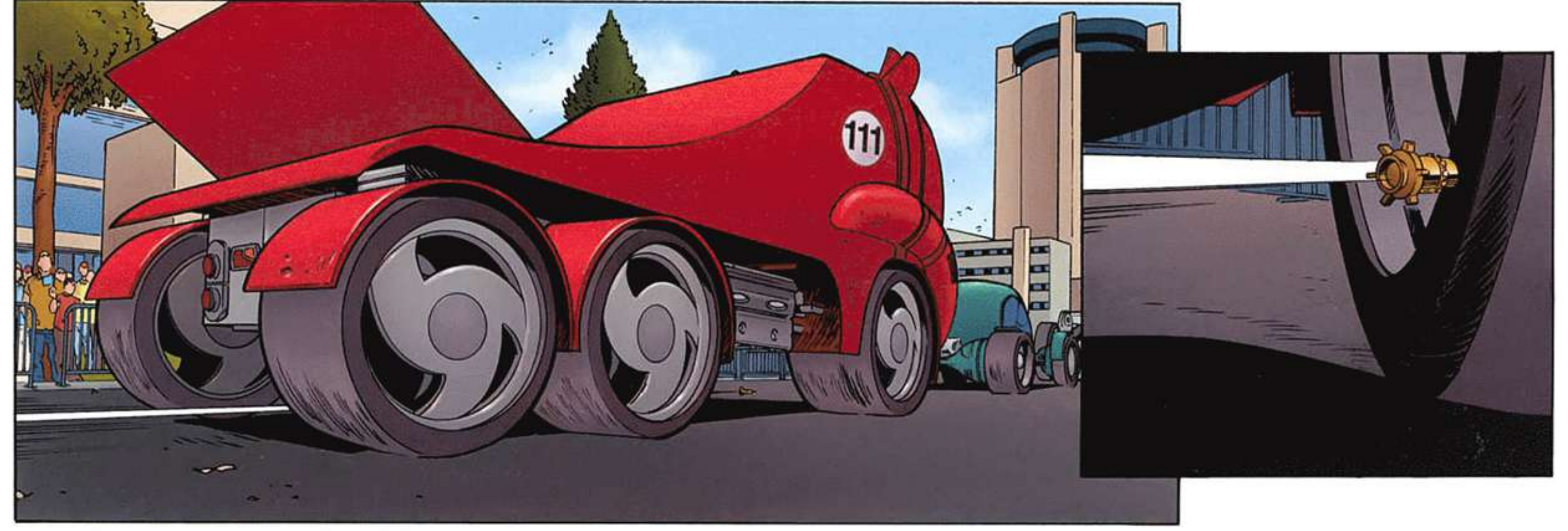




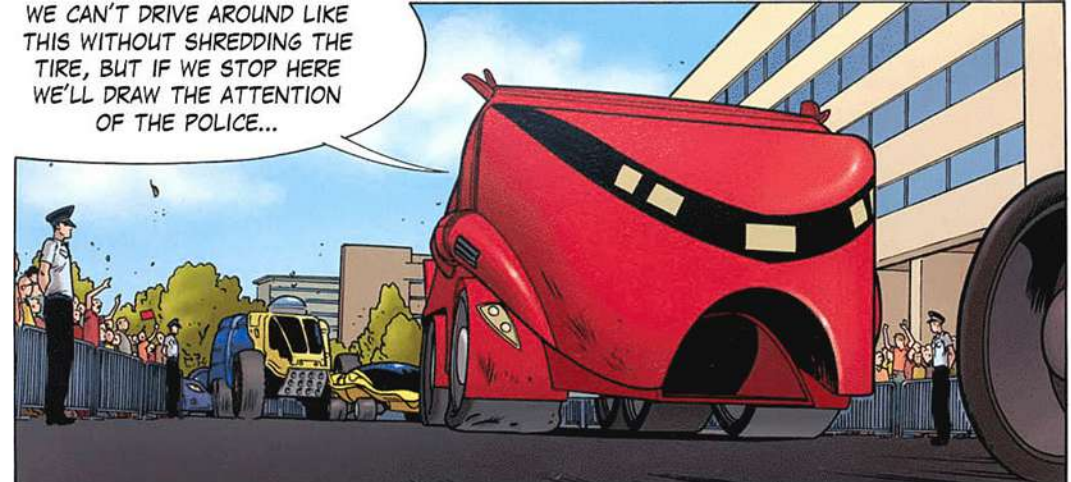



LOOK! THE TRUCK!
WE'VE FOUND THEM! NOW TO NEUTRALISE THEM BEFORE THEY CAN DETONATE THE BOMB!
YOUR TURN, LADIES.
READY? OPENING THE DOOR...
NOT TOO MUCH. I DON'T WANT TO BE VISIBLE FROM THE GROUND.
TUMB!

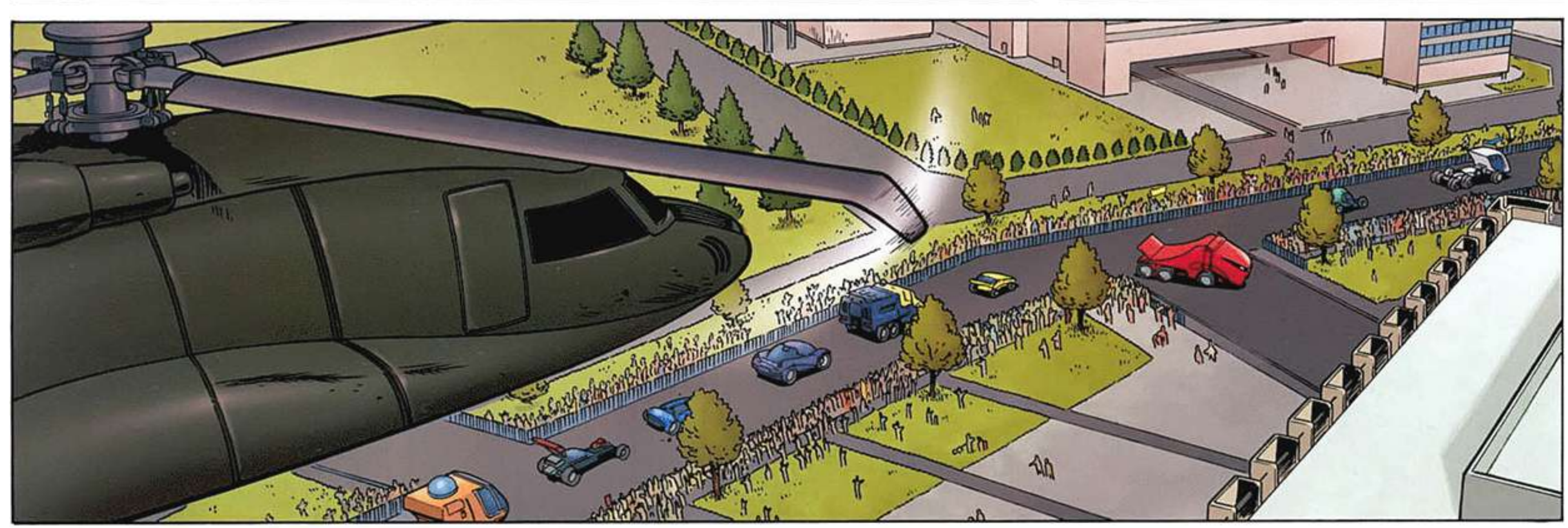

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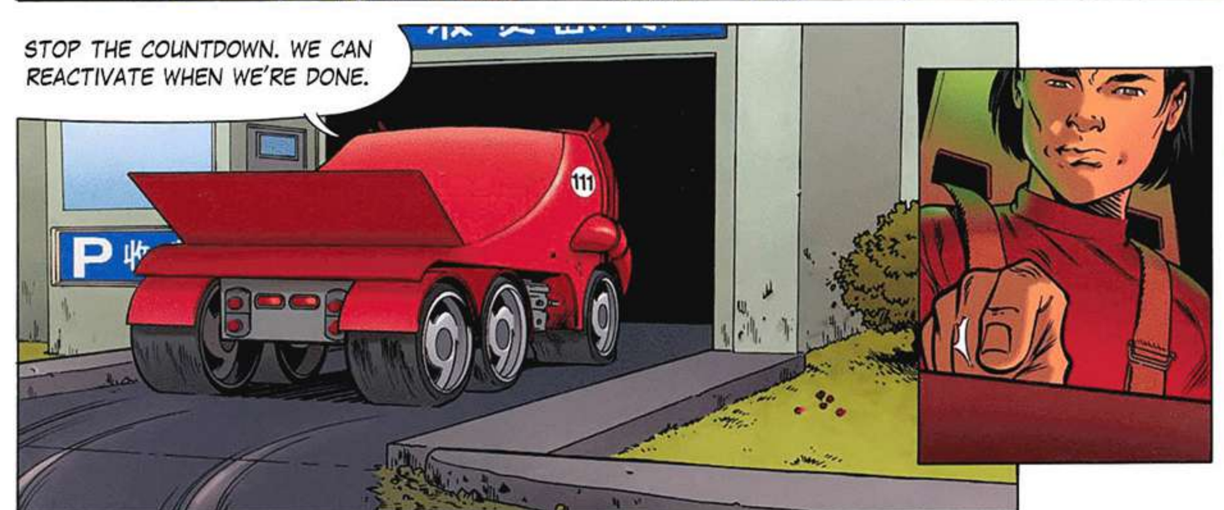

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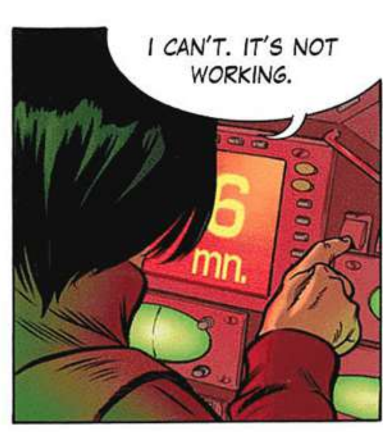
WARNING
FLAT TYRE
SHIT!

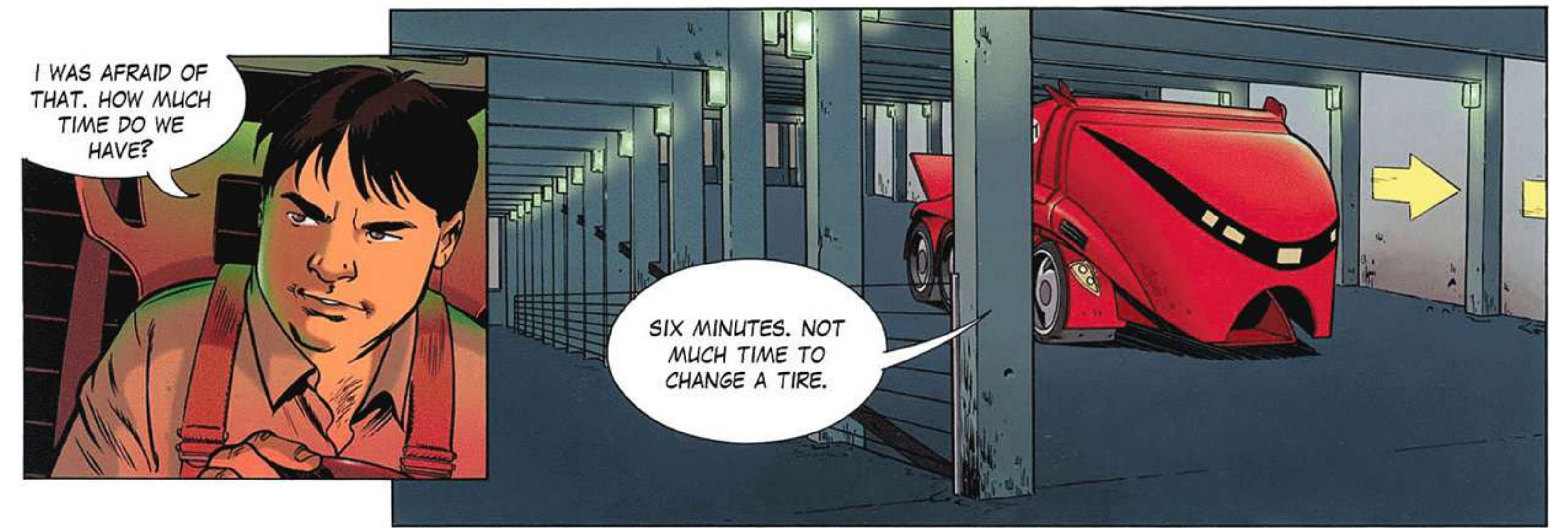

WE CAN'T DRIVE AROUND LIKE THIS WITHOUT SHREDDING THE TIRE, BUT IF WE STOP HERE WE'LL DRAW THE ATTENTION OF THE POLICE...


THERE! UNDERGROUND PARKING. WE CAN MAKE OUR REPAIRS IN PRIVATE.
OKAY!



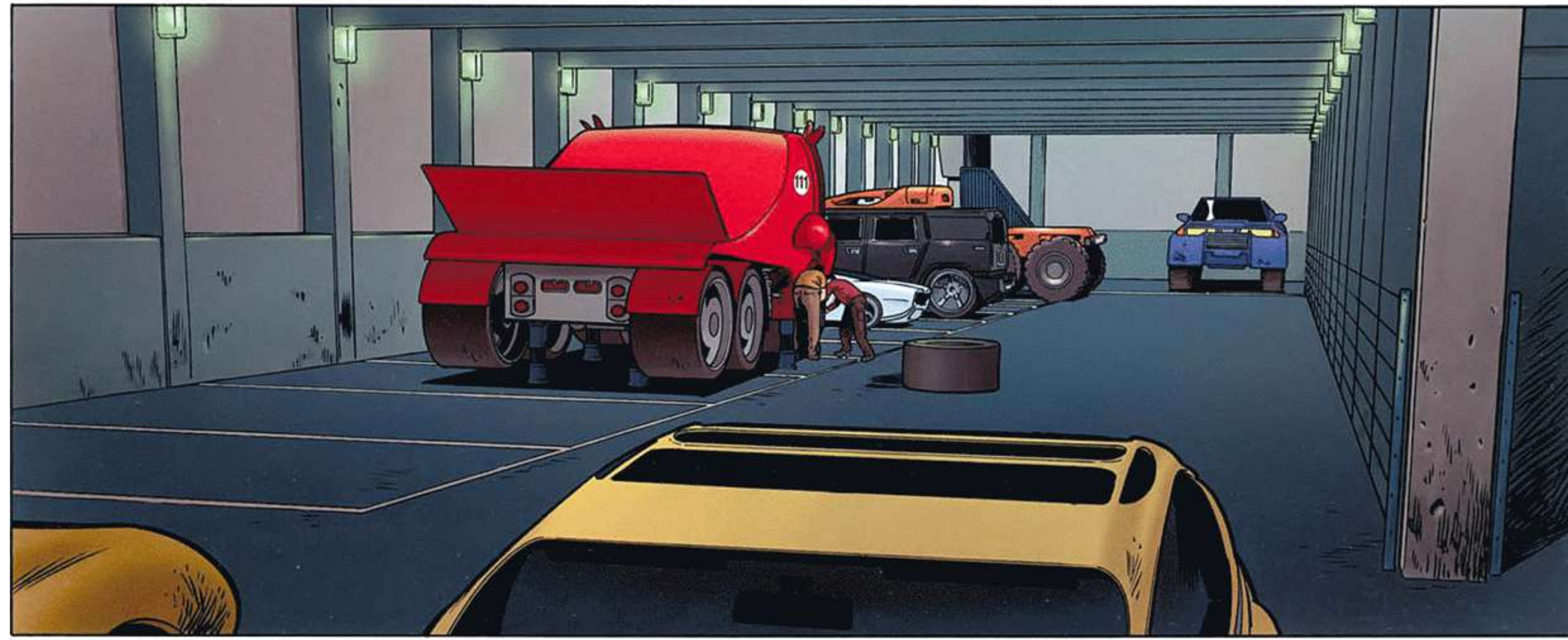

STOP THE COUNTDOWN. WE CAN REACTIVATE WHEN WE'RE DONE.
111
P


I CAN'T. IT'S NOT WORKING.
6 mn.


I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
SIX MINUTES. NOT MUCH TIME TO CHANGE A TIRE.



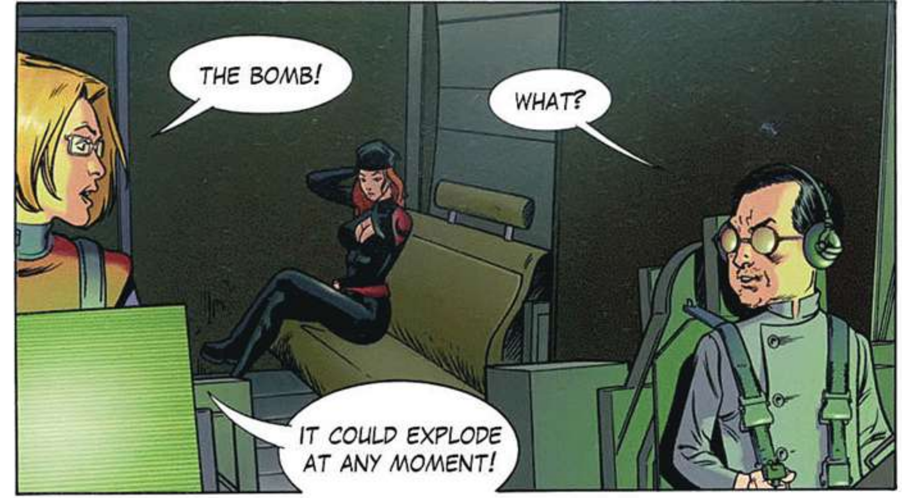




WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?

A MINI-DRONE CAPABLE OF PIERCING MOST MATERIAL.
?!

IDEAL FOR PUNCTURING TIRES.


THE BOMB!
WHAT?
IT COULD EXPLODE AT ANY MOMENT!
RELAX, BABE. THE CHINESE AREN'T STUPID. THEY'LL STOP THE COUNTDOWN WHILE THEY CHANGE THE TIRE.


IMPOSSIBLE! THEY DON'T HAVE THE DEACTIVATION CODE. I NEED TO GET DOWN THERE IMMEDIATELY. HELI-WINCH ME, NOW!

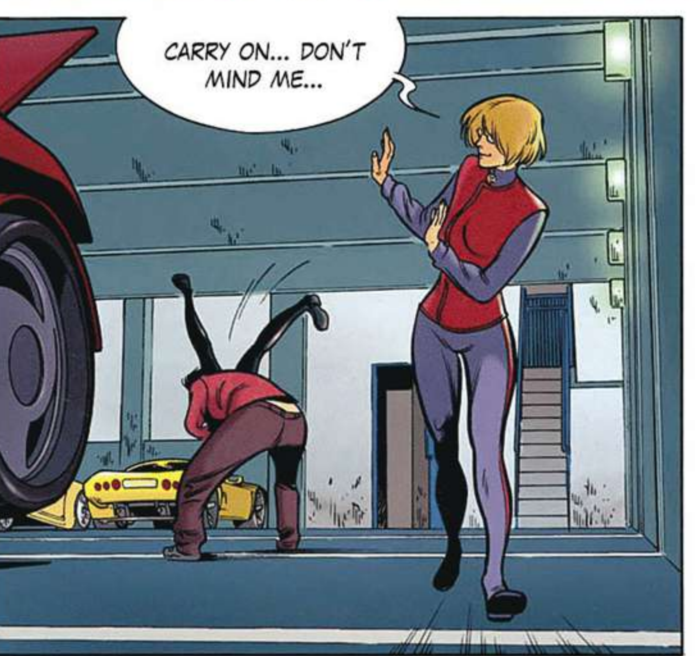

WANT SOME HELP?

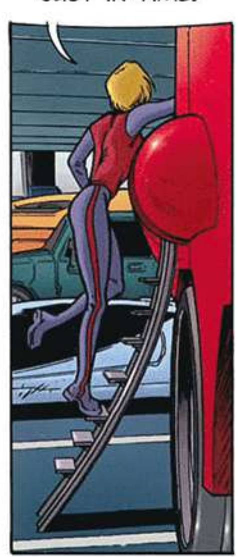

NO!
I'M A BIG GIRL. I THINK I CAN HANDLE PUNCHING SOME NUMBERS INTO A KEYPAD.

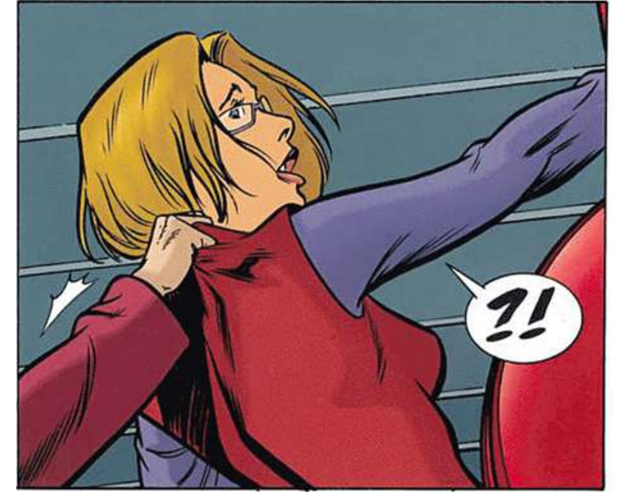
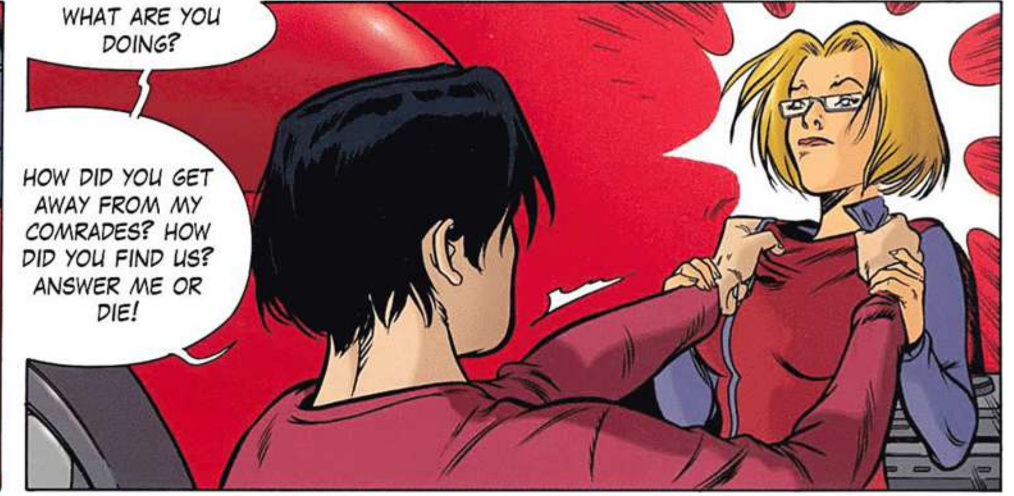


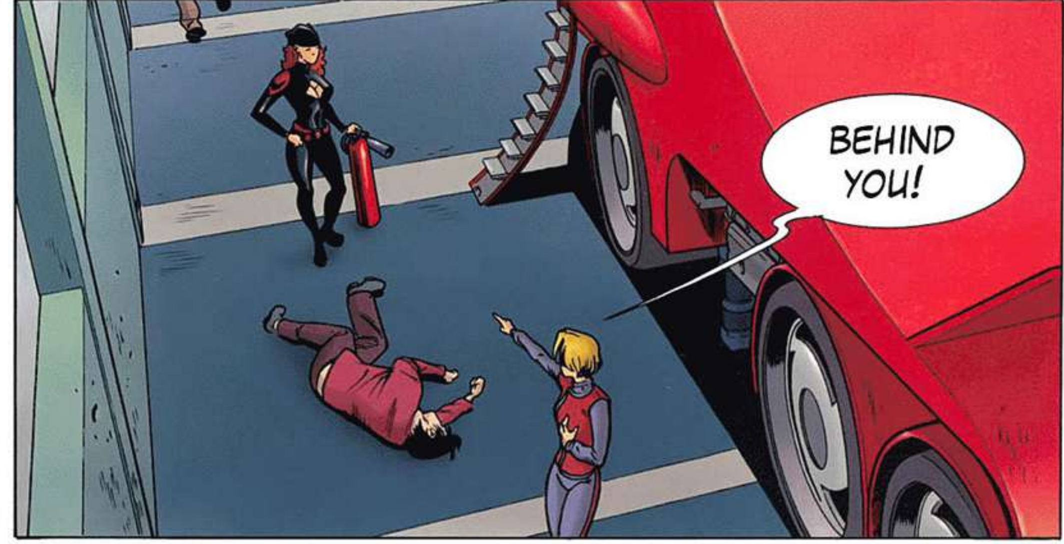




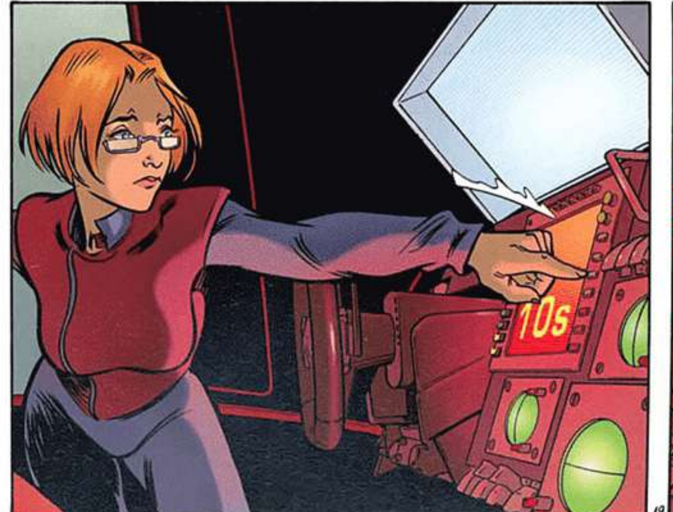
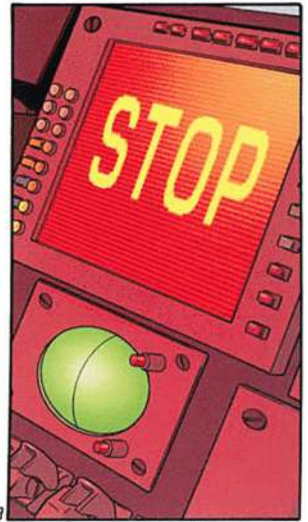

CARRY ON... DON'T MIND ME...

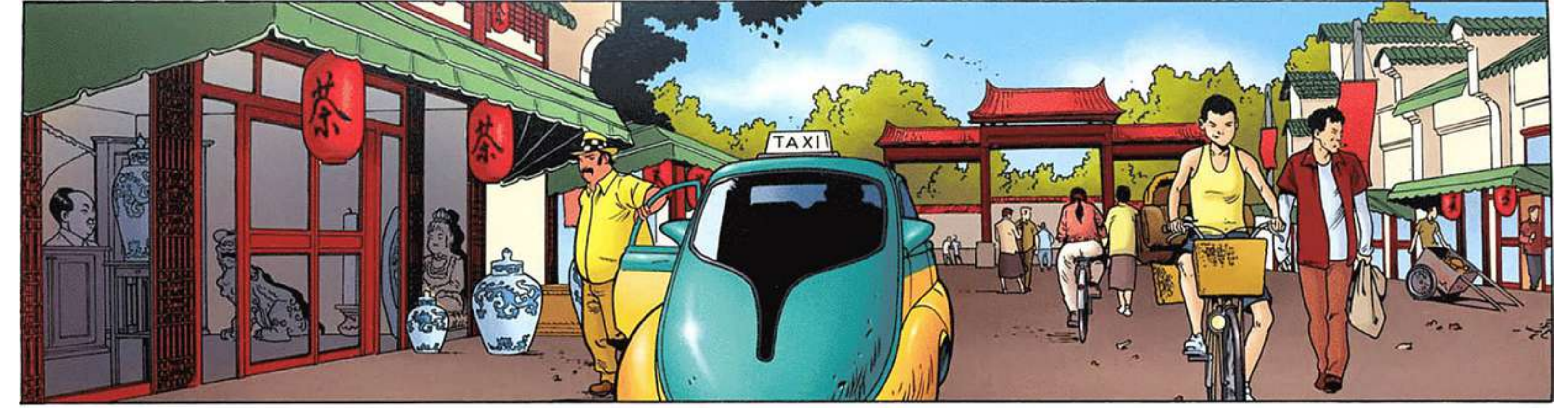

ONE MINUTE BEFORE DETONATION! I'M JUST IN TIME!


?!

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOW DID YOU GET AWAY FROM MY COMRADES? HOW DID YOU FIND US? ANSWER ME OR DIE!


BEHIND YOU!



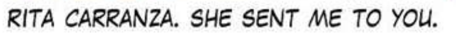
ENTER THE CODE BEFORE WE EXPLODE PLEASE, DARLING!

10s

STOP


TAXI

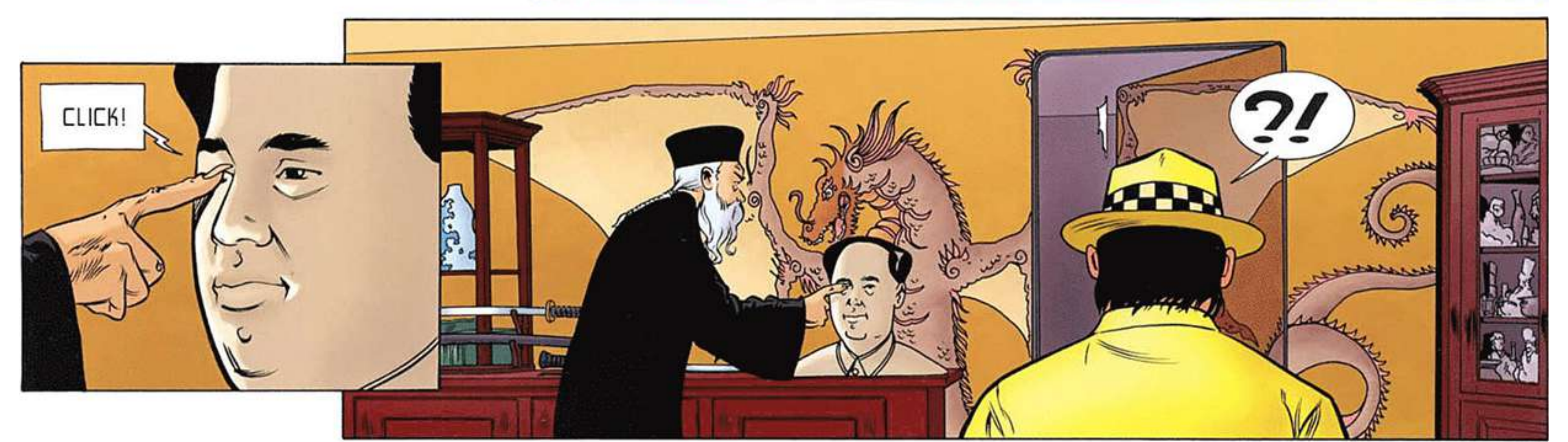

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE STORE, HONOURABLE STRANGER. WHAT CAN I SELL YOU?
A WEAPON.
TAXI


A SABRE FROM THE ERA OF MING?
NO, A GUN FROM THE ERA OF NOW.
SORRY, BUT I DON'T SELL SUCH THINGS.
THAT'S NOT WHAT MY SISTER TOLD ME. SHE SAID YOU COULD HELP ME WITH A BIG GUN.

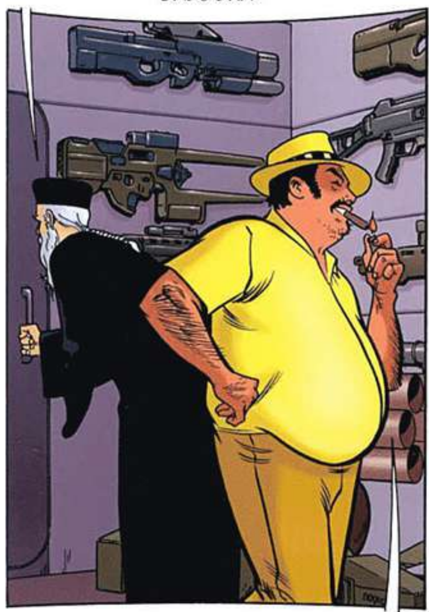

YOUR SISTER... WHAT'S HER NAME?

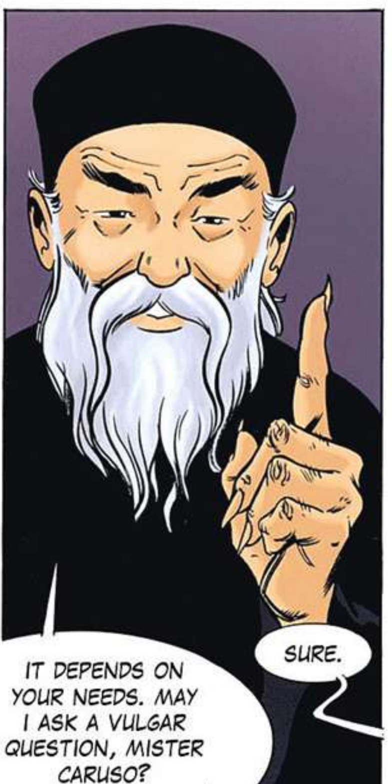

RITA CARRANZA. SHE SENT ME TO YOU.


WELL WHY DIDN'T YOU SAY SO! PLEASED TO MEET YOU, MISTER...?
CARUSO.

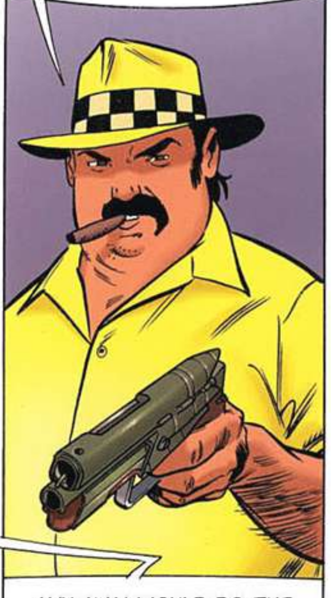

CLICK!
?!

COME IN, PLEASE.
HOLY CRAP, YOU'VE GOT A VERITABLE ARSENAL STASHED BACK HERE. WHEN I WAS A KID I DREAMED OF HAVING A PLACE LIKE THIS.
I ALWAYS HAD A PASSION FOR GUNS.

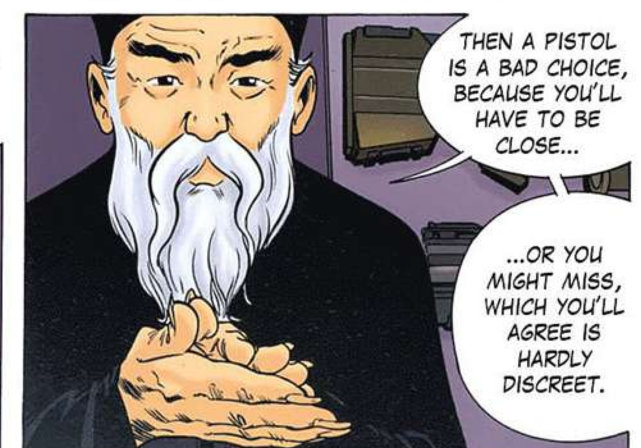


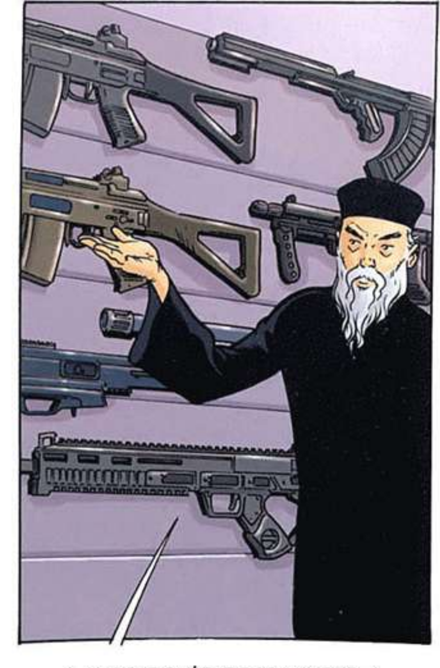




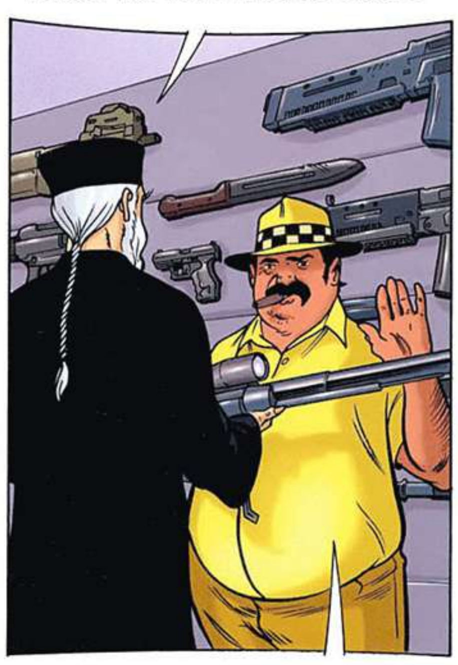







I ALSO DON'T RECOMMEND A MACHINE GUN. WHILE IT OFFERS THE ADVANTAGE OF RANGE, FIRING SEVERAL BURSTS FROM A MOVING CAR COULD RESULT IN DEATH OR INJURY TO INNOCENT PEDESTRIANS. ATTRACTING THAT SORT OF ATTENTION IS MOST INDISCREET.


FOR THE SAME REASON I'D ADVISE AGAINST ASSAULT RIFLES AND BAZOOKAS. WHAT REMAINS IS THE SNIPER RIFLE...

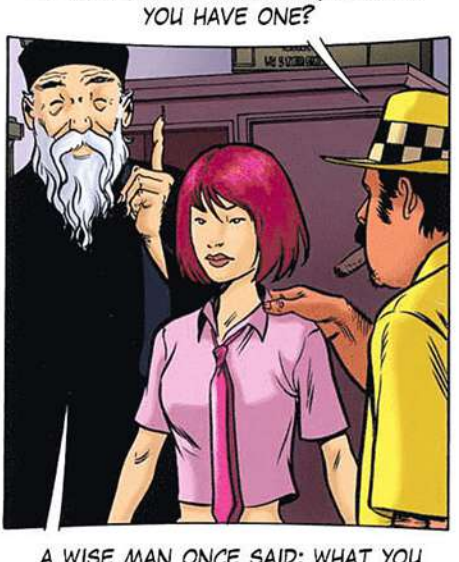

THE SCOPE ALLOWS FOR PINPOINT ACCURACY OVER HUNDREDS OF METERS SO A SHOOTER CAN ELIMINATE A RIVAL WITH ABSOLUTE DISCRETION. HOWEVER, THIS WEAPON REQUIRES SKILLED HANDS. ARE YOU A TRAINED SNIPER?
LORD, NO. I RECENTLY MISSED DAYTONA WITH A GREAT BIG MISSILE.


WELL, THEN THERE'S ONLY ONE SOLUTION...
WHICH ONE?


THIS ONE!


A MOST LETHAL WEAPON!
SHE'LL KILL DAYTONA FOR YOU!


IS THAT... A ROBOT?
YES! A NEXT GENERATION ROBOT! RIGHT NOW THERE ARE ONLY FIVE IN THE WORLD, ALL RESERVED FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF THE CHINESE ARMY. STRICTLY NOT FOR SALE OR EXPORT.
FULLY PROGRAMMABLE. IT'S CAPABLE OF ANYTHING, EVEN LOVE, AND CAN HAVE AUTONOMY FOR SEVERAL DAYS THANKS TO ADVANCED SOLAR CELLS.


IF THEY AREN'T FOR SALE, HOW DO YOU HAVE ONE?
A WISE MAN ONCE SAID: WHAT YOU CAN'T BUY, YOU STEAL.





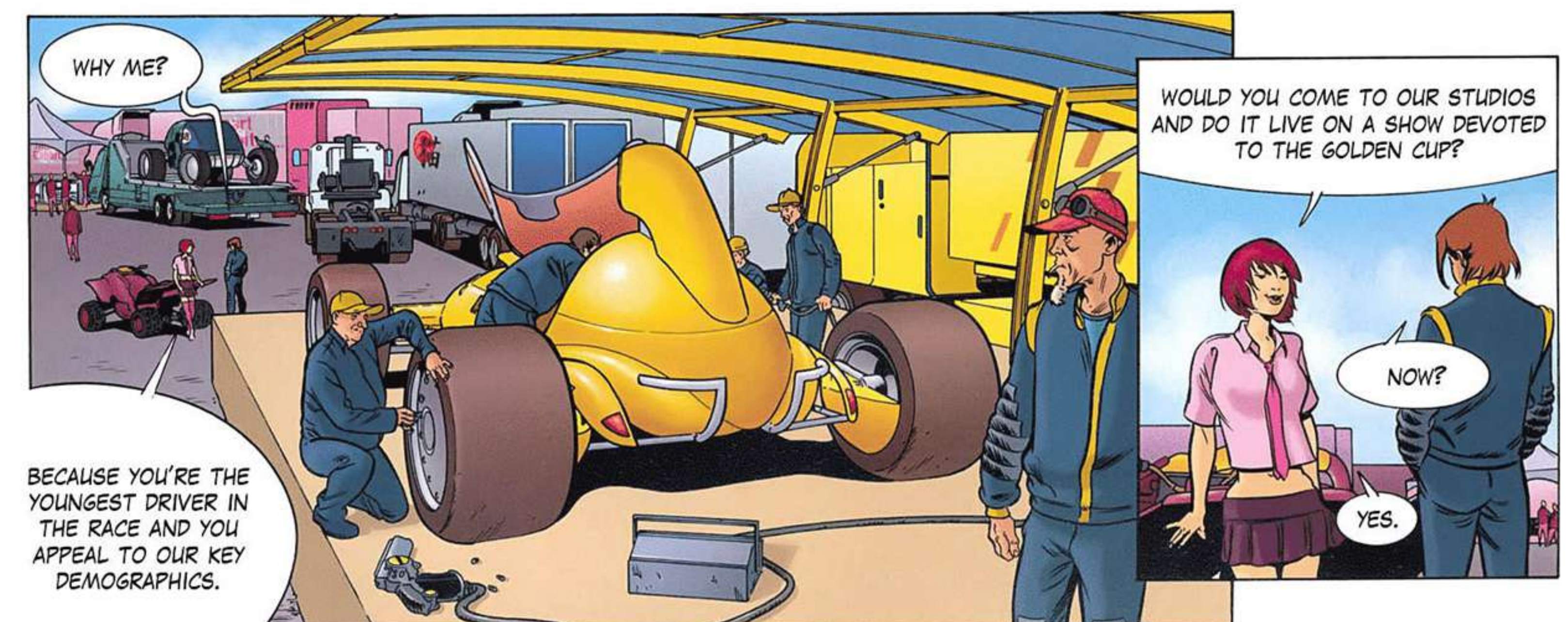


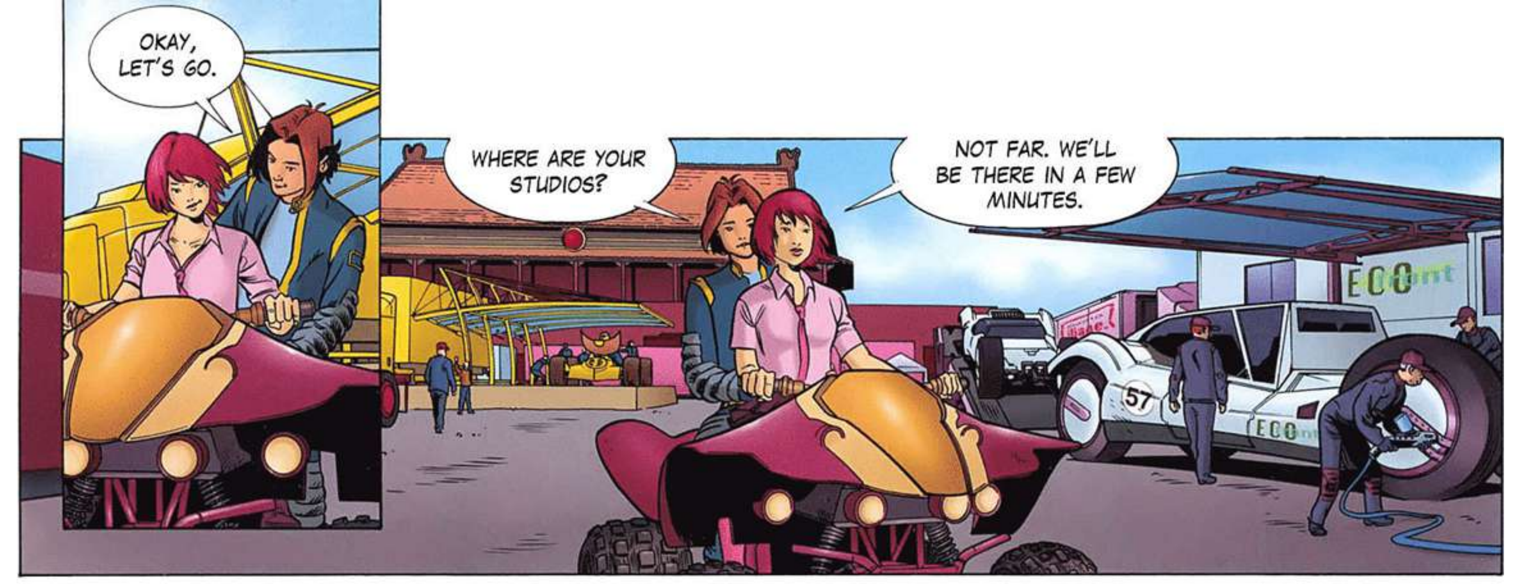
XIAO LONG!... IT MEANS "LITTLE DRAGON".

LITTLE DRAGON? THAT'S SUCH A CUTE NAME.

THANKS.

I WORK FOR CHINAMOTORS, A TELEVISION CHANNEL SPECIALIZING IN MOTORSPORTS. WE'D LIKE TO INTERVIEW YOU.




OKAY, LET'S GO.
WHERE ARE YOUR STUDIOS?
NOT FAR. WE'LL BE THERE IN A FEW MINUTES.
57


WHEN WE'RE DONE I'LL BRING YOU RIGHT BACK.
OKAY.
79


?!
111


WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
TO DO AN INTERVIEW.


WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?
NAH, WE WON'T BE LONG.


WHO'S THAT MINX? SHE LOOKED THROUGH ME LIKE I DIDN'T EXIST.
TOTALLY IGNORED ME! WHAT A PINK-HAIRED BITCH! IT'S VULGAR! WHAT DOES DAYTONA SEE IN HER?

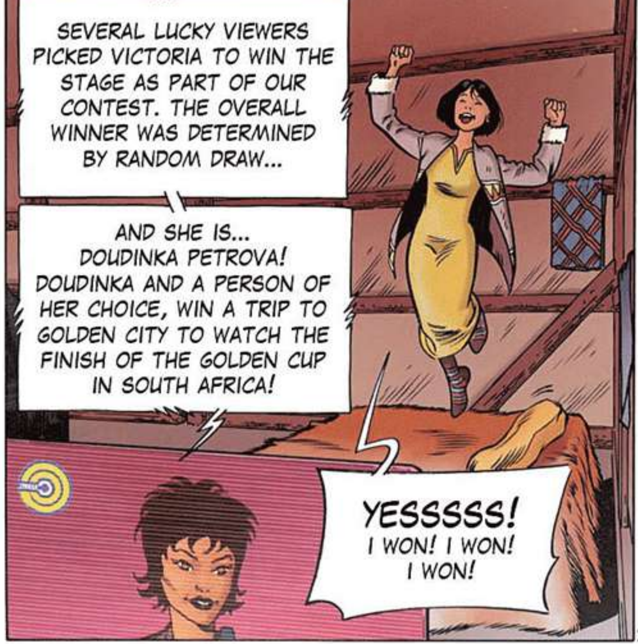
WHERE'S DOUDINKA?
WATCHING THE GOLDEN CUP ON TELEVISION.

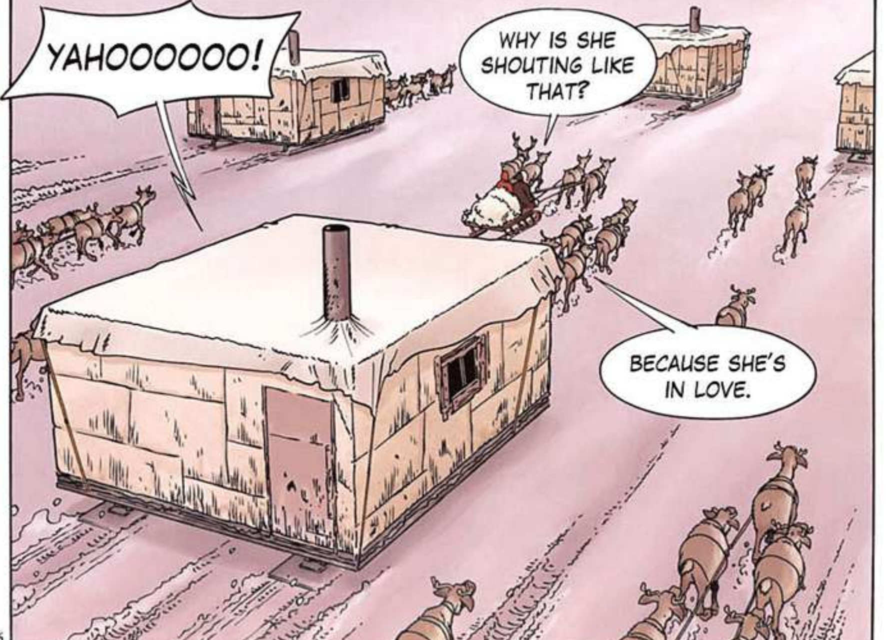
SHE USED TO HATE MOTORSPORT. SINCE WHEN IS SHE INTERESTED?
SINCE SHE SAVED THAT BOY FROM DROWNING. YOU KNOW, THE ONE WHOSE CAR SLID DOWN THE RAVINE? WHAT WAS HIS NAME?
DAYTONA.

YES, THAT'S IT. SINCE SHE FOUND HIM I HARDLY RECOGNIZE HER. SHE'S FOREVER DAYDREAMING AND BABBLING ABOUT HER HANDSOME YOUNG DRIVER.

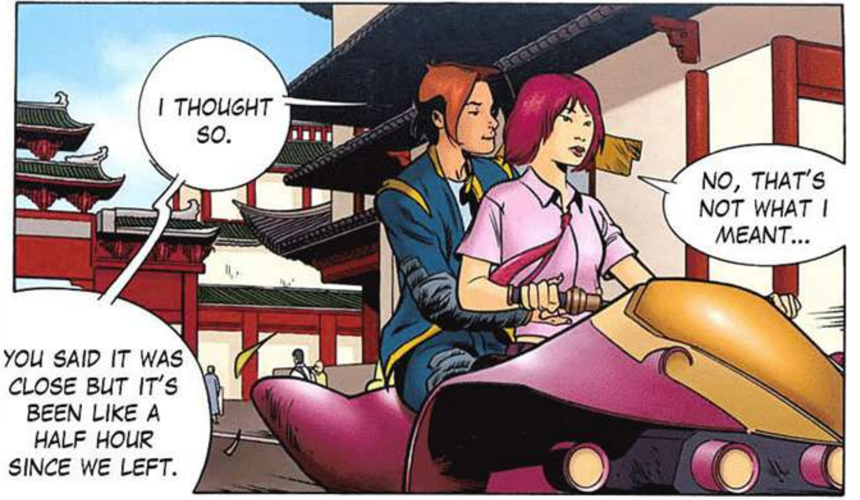
THE ORGANIZERS HAVE JUST ANNOUNCED THE OFFICIAL RESULTS! THE WINNER OF THE ANADYR-BEIJING STAGE IS DAYTONA! MORE THAN TWO HOURS AHEAD OF HIS NEAREST RIVAL!

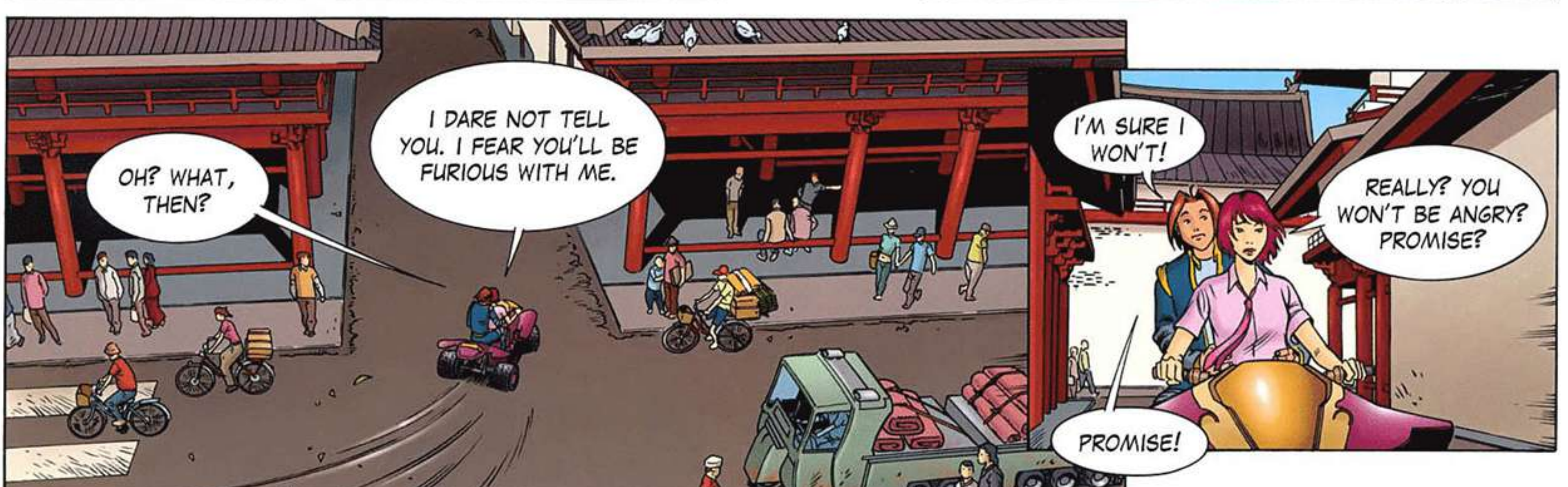
HE RECORDED AMAZING TIMES THROUGHOUT THE MARATHON STAGE AND WAS ONE OF THE ONLY COMPETITORS NOT WAYLAID DURING THE CROSSING OF THE GOBI DESERT BY A SAND STORM THAT WREAKED HAVOC ON THE FIELD OF RACERS.





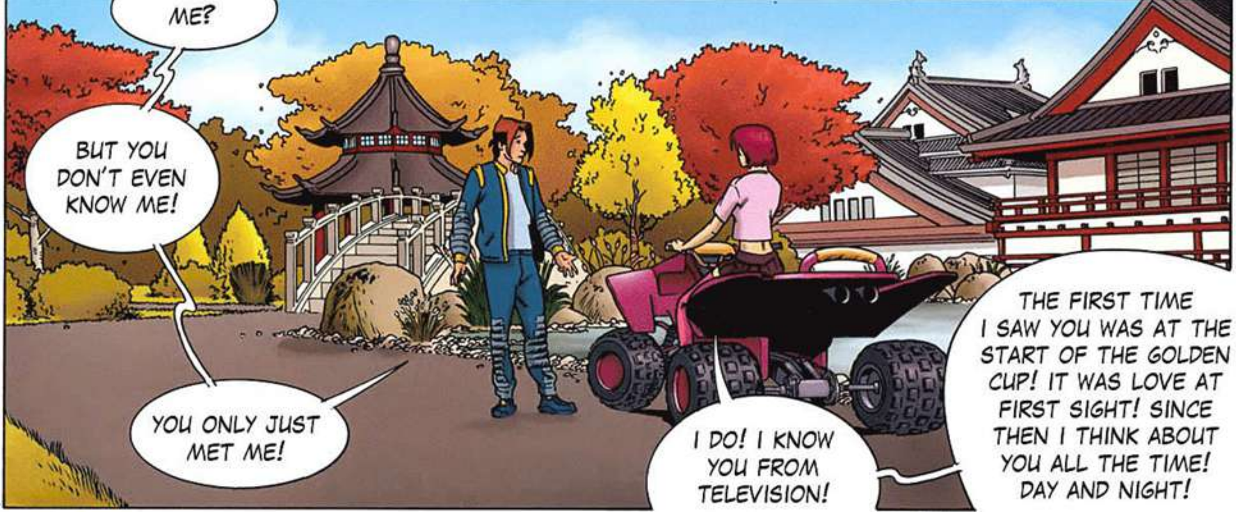

IS IT STILL FAR TO THE TV STUDIO?
I LIED TO YOU.


I THOUGHT SO.
YOU SAID IT WAS CLOSE BUT IT'S BEEN LIKE A HALF HOUR SINCE WE LEFT.
NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...


OH? WHAT, THEN?
I DARE NOT TELL YOU. I FEAR YOU'LL BE FURIOUS WITH ME.
I'M SURE I WON'T!
REALLY? YOU WON'T BE ANGRY? PROMISE?
PROMISE!


OKAY, HERE GOES: I LIED TO YOU. I'M NOT A JOURNALIST FOR CHINAMOTORS OR ANYONE.
WHAT?!
YOU'RE KIDDING! WHAT AM I DOING HERE THEN?
SEE, I TOLD YOU YOU'D BE FURIOUS!
I HAVE GOOD CAUSE! WHAT'S THE POINT OF THIS CHARADE?

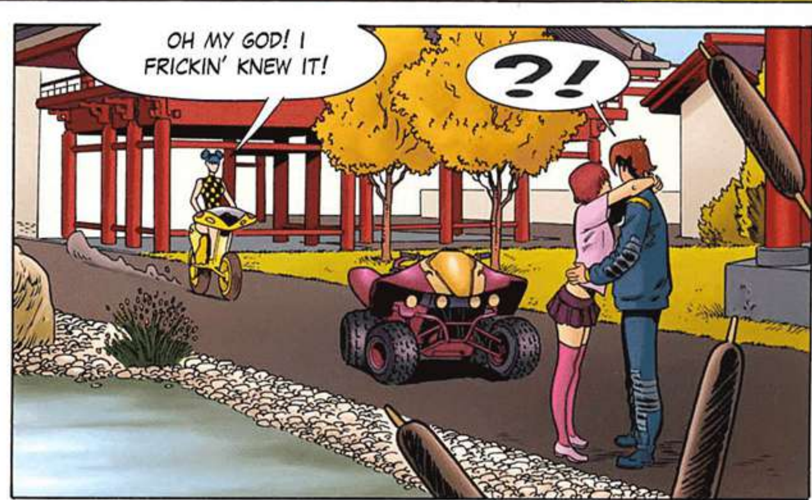

IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO GET YOU ALONE SO I COULD TELL YOU THAT... I LOVE YOU.


ME?
BUT YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ME!
YOU ONLY JUST MET ME!
I DO! I KNOW YOU FROM TELEVISION!
THE FIRST TIME I SAW YOU WAS AT THE START OF THE GOLDEN CUP! IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT! SINCE THEN I THINK ABOUT YOU ALL THE TIME! DAY AND NIGHT!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE'S SAYING, BUT THE BASTARD LOOKS LIKE HE'S IN LOVE! HEHE!
CAREFUL, HE MIGHT SEE YOU!
CLOSE THE WINDOW!
NOT A CHANCE! I DEMAND A FRONT ROW SEAT FOR MY ULTI-MATE REVENGE!
I'VE WAITED TOO LONG FOR THIS MOMENT.

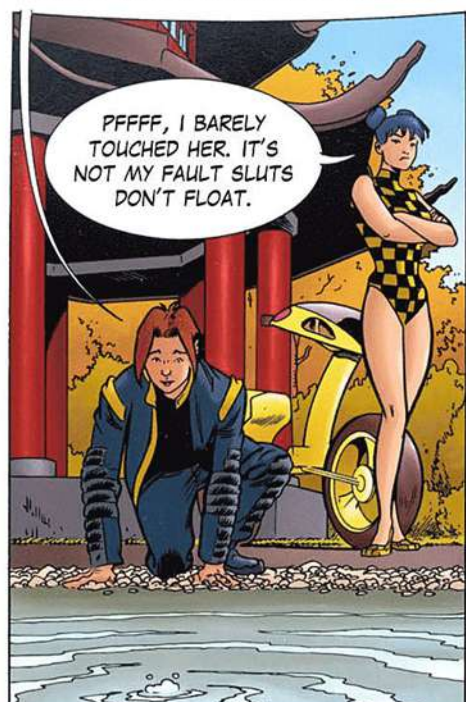





OH MY GOD! I FRICKIN' KNEW IT!
?!


SHE'S GOING TO RUIN EVE-RYTHING!
WHO IS THAT?
MY WIFE!

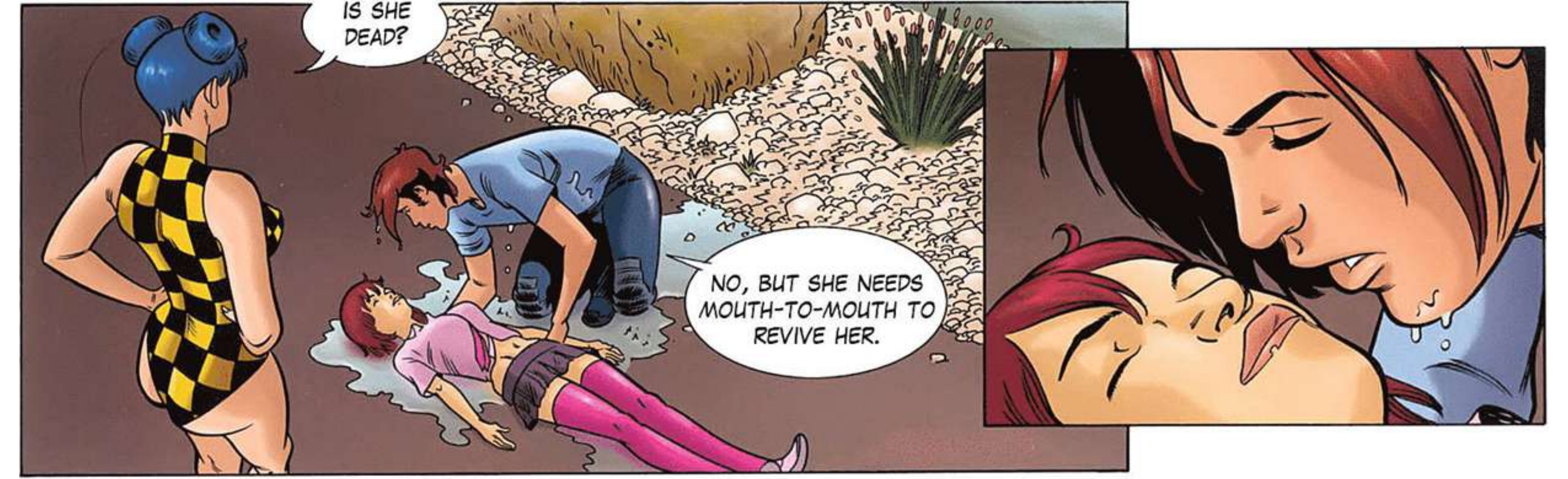

YOU BITCH! GET THE FUCK OFF MY MAN!



SHE SANK LIKE A ROCK! HOLLY, ARE YOU CRAZY? I THINK YOU KNOCKED HER OUT!
PFFFF, I BARELY TOUCHED HER. IT'S NOT MY FAULT SLUTS DON'T FLOAT.

ARE YOU COMING? STIRLING SENT ME TO FIND YOU. HE HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL YOU SO, LIKE, LET'S GO.
ONE MINUTE! WE CAN'T EXACTLY LET HER DROWN, RIGHT?

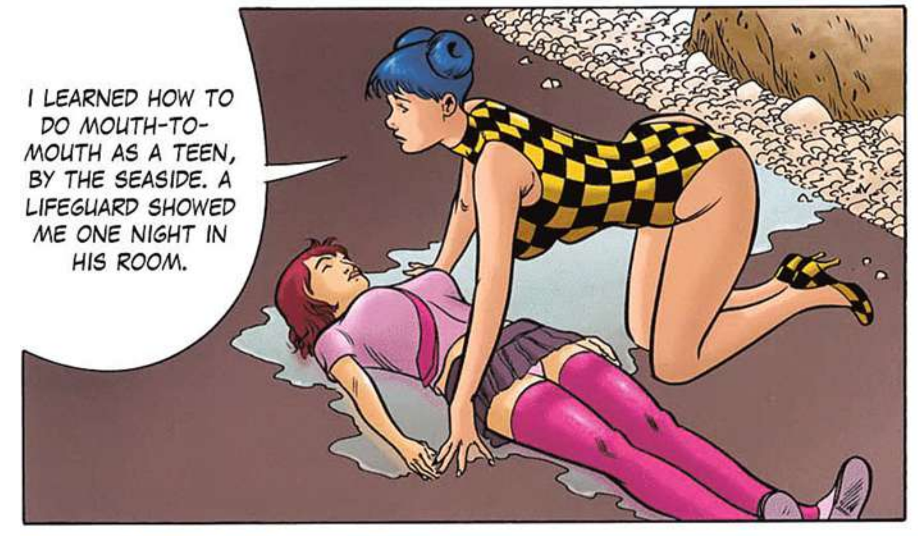



YOUR STUPID ROBOT IS BROKEN!
GIVE ME THAT GUN! I'LL KILL HIM MYSELF!


IS SHE DEAD?
NO, BUT SHE NEEDS MOUTH-TO-MOUTH TO REVIVE HER.


SURE, JUST MAKE OUT WITH HER WHILE I WATCH!
?!

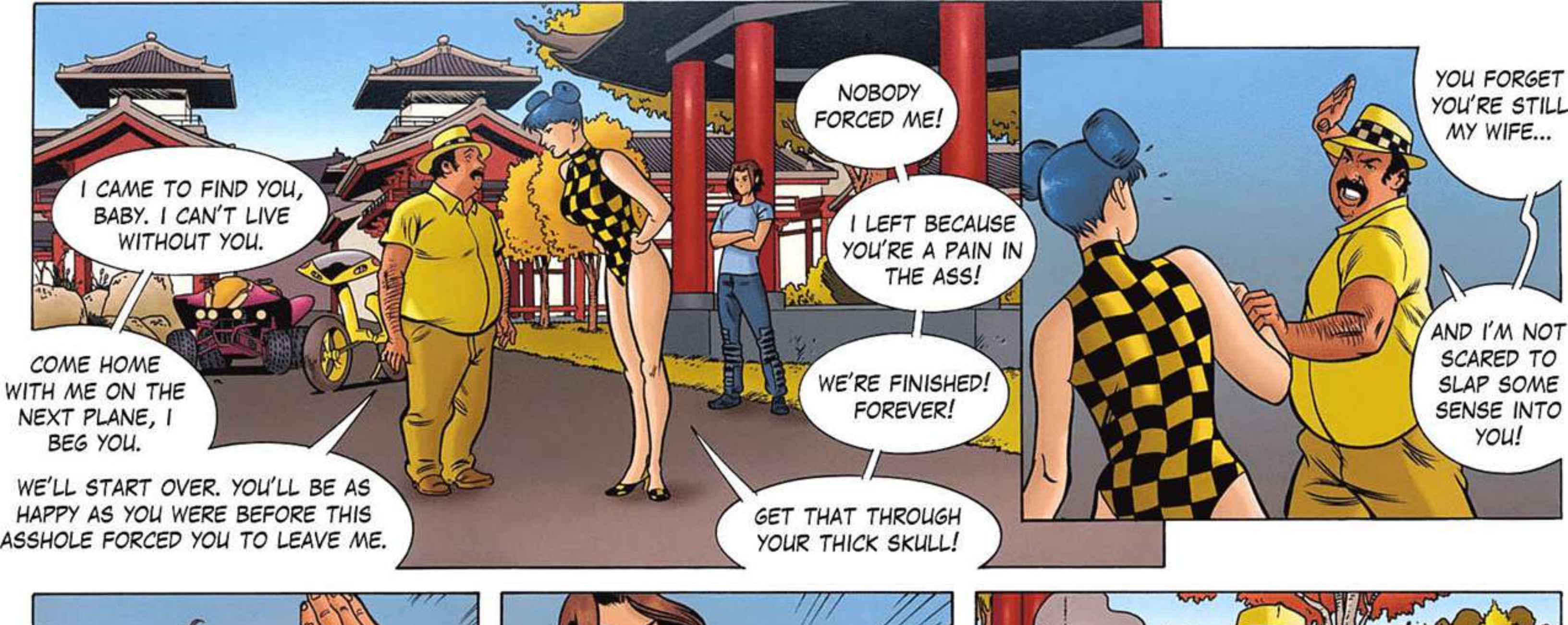

OUT OF THE WAY! I'LL DO IT!
I'LL SAVE YOU FROM YOUR OWN PERVERSE INCLI-NATIONS.


I LEARNED HOW TO DO MOUTH-TO-MOUTH AS A TEEN, BY THE SEASIDE. A LIFEGUARD SHOWED ME ONE NIGHT IN HIS ROOM.



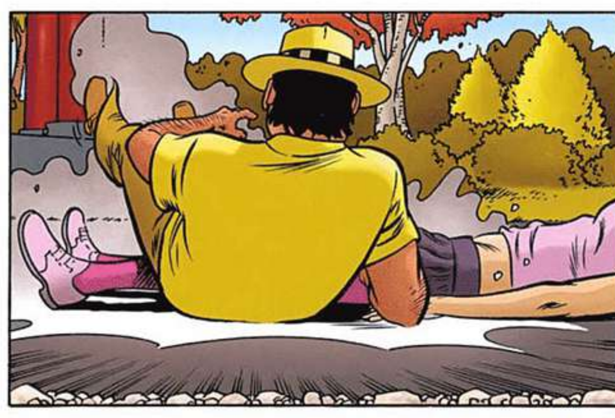



HOLLY! NOOO!
DON'T DO THAT!
CARUSO?!
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?


I CAME TO FIND YOU, BABY. I CAN'T LIVE WITHOUT YOU.
COME HOME WITH ME ON THE NEXT PLANE, I BEG YOU.
WE'LL START OVER. YOU'LL BE AS HAPPY AS YOU WERE BEFORE THIS ASSHOLE FORCED YOU TO LEAVE ME.
NOBODY FORCED ME!
I LEFT BECAUSE YOU'RE A PAIN IN THE ASS!
WE'RE FINISHED! FOREVER!
GET THAT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL!
YOU FORGET YOU'RE STILL MY WIFE...
AND I'M NOT SCARED TO SLAP SOME SENSE INTO YOU!

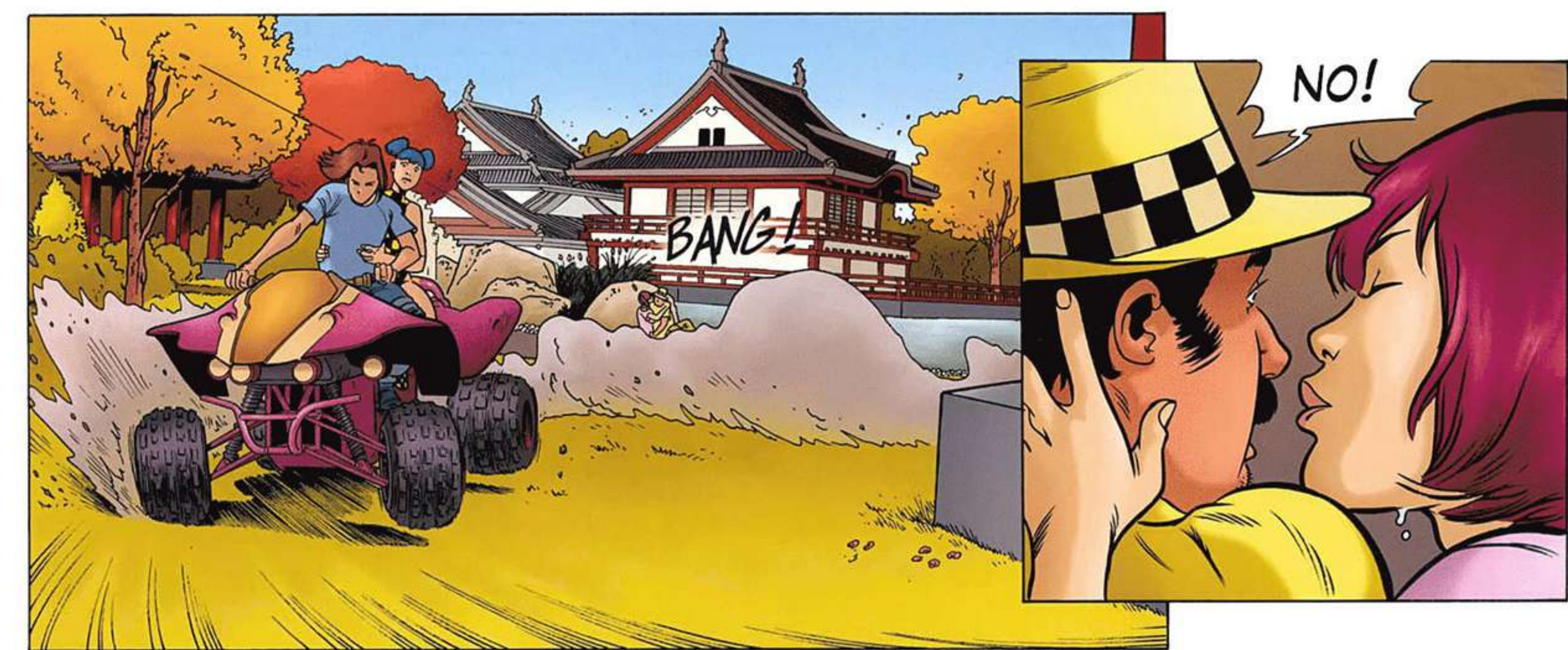






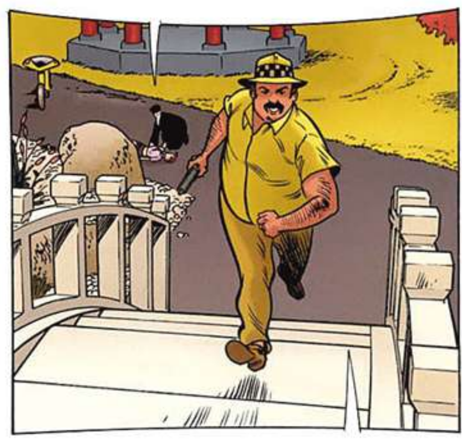

YOU'LL PAY, BASTARD!


?!

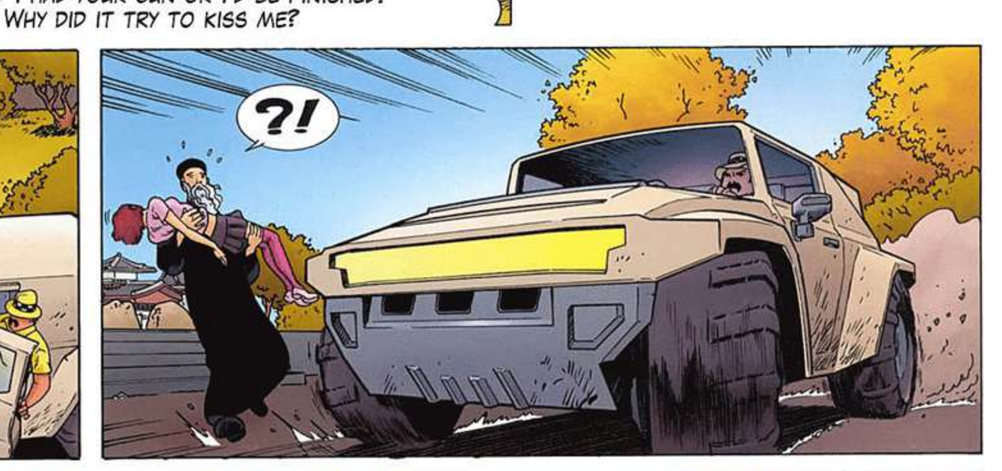

BANG!
NO!


BANG!


I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE!
LUCKILY I HAD YOUR GUN OR I'D BE FINISHED! WHY DID IT TRY TO KISS ME?


I LOOK NOTHING LIKE DAYTONA...
...AND HE'S HAD THE CHANCE TO ESCAPE! HE WON'T GET AWAY, I TELL YOU!


TIME TO MURDER!
TO MASSACRE!
TO ANNIHILATE!

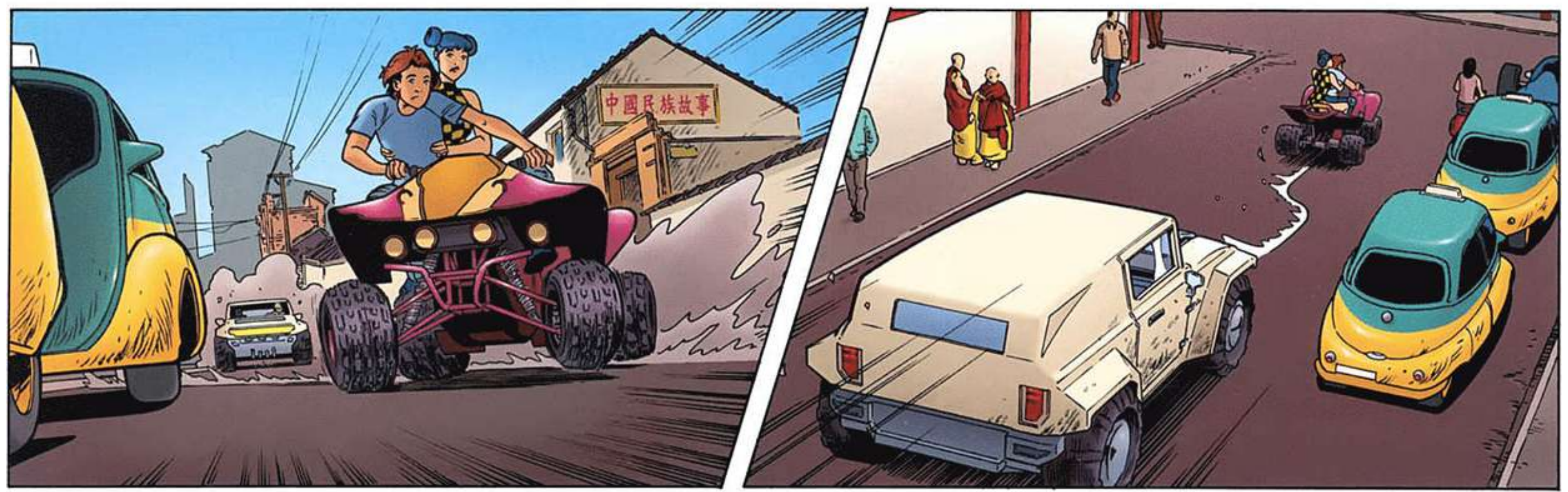

?!


MY CAR!


THERE'S ONE THING I CAN'T EXPLAIN...
WHAT?
HOW DID CARUSO KNOW EXACTLY WHERE XIAO LONG WOULD TAKE ME?



SHIT! IT'S HIM...
DIE, YOU LITTLE PRICK!
YOU WON'T ESCAPE THIS TIME!



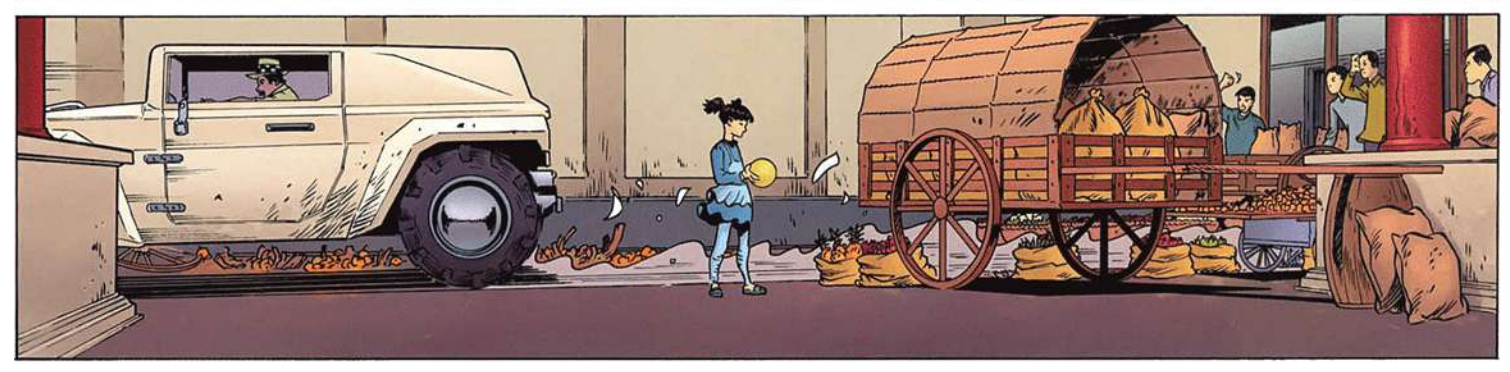
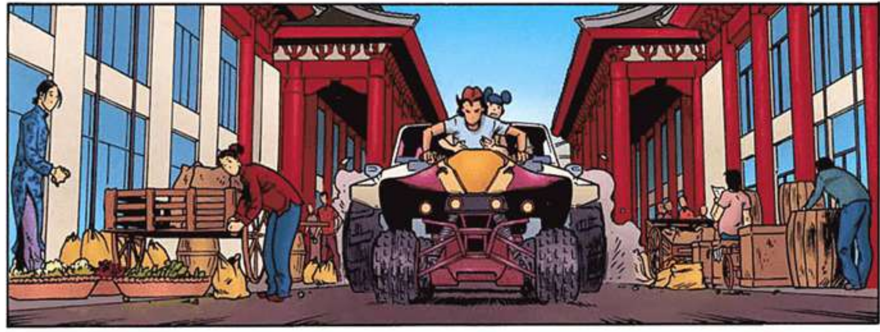
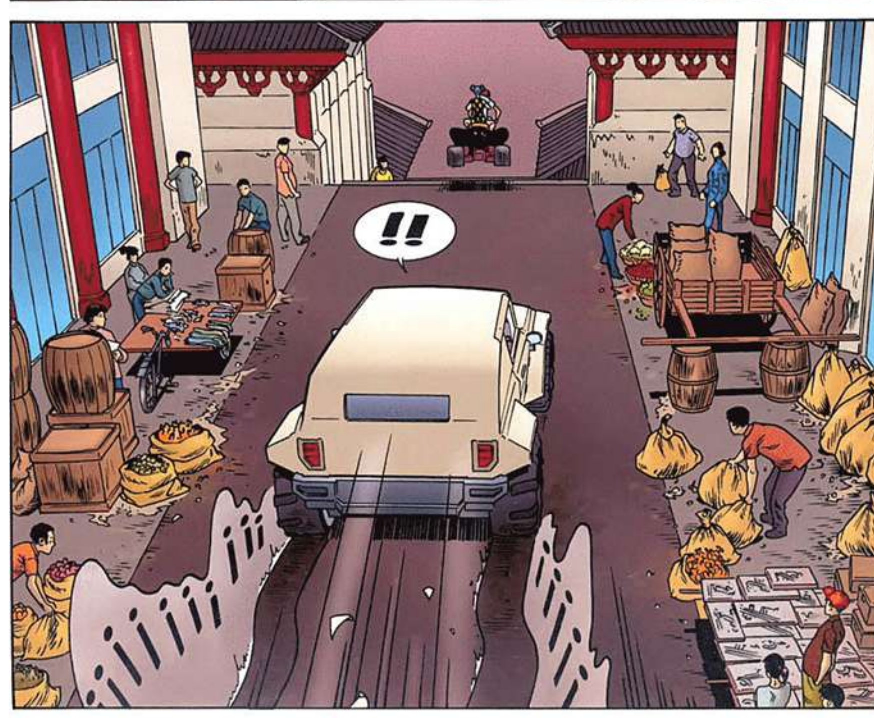
中國民族故事

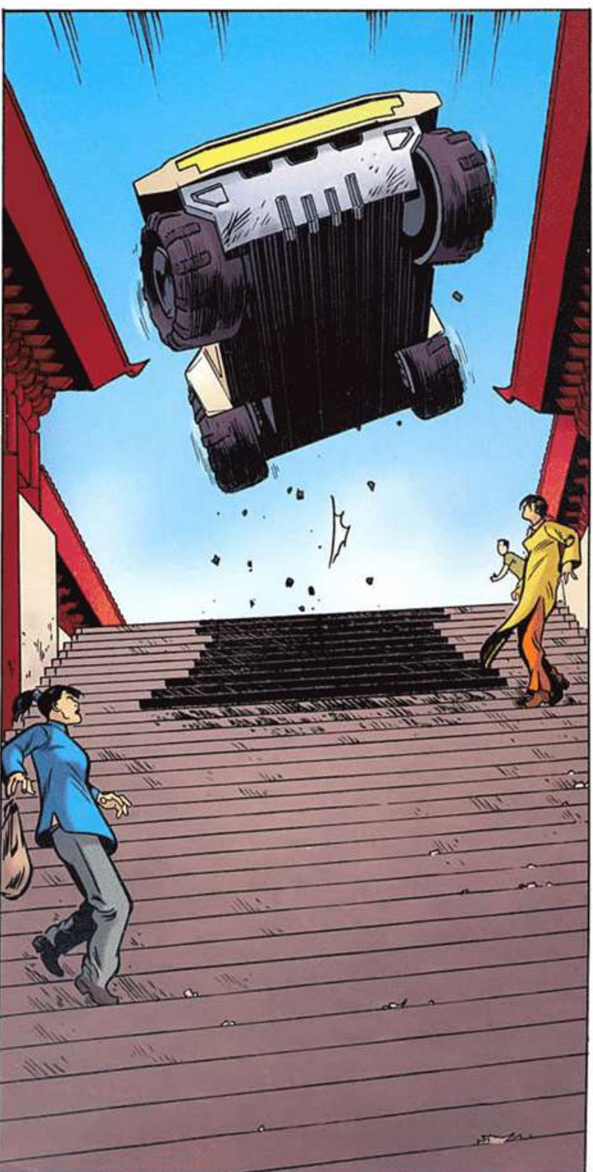


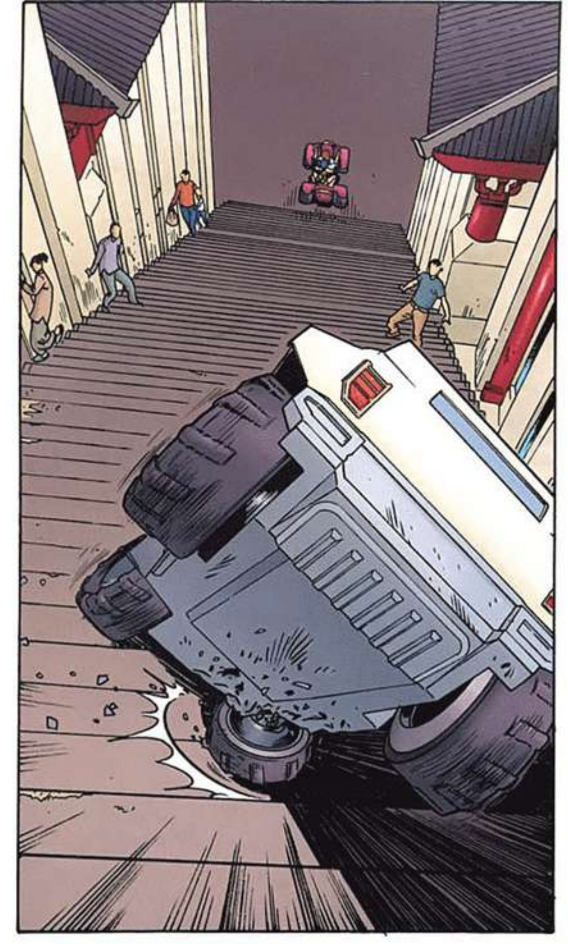


I CAN'T SHAKE HIM. IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE HE RACED CARS, BUT HE HASN'T LOST HIS TOUCH.
LOOK OUT!

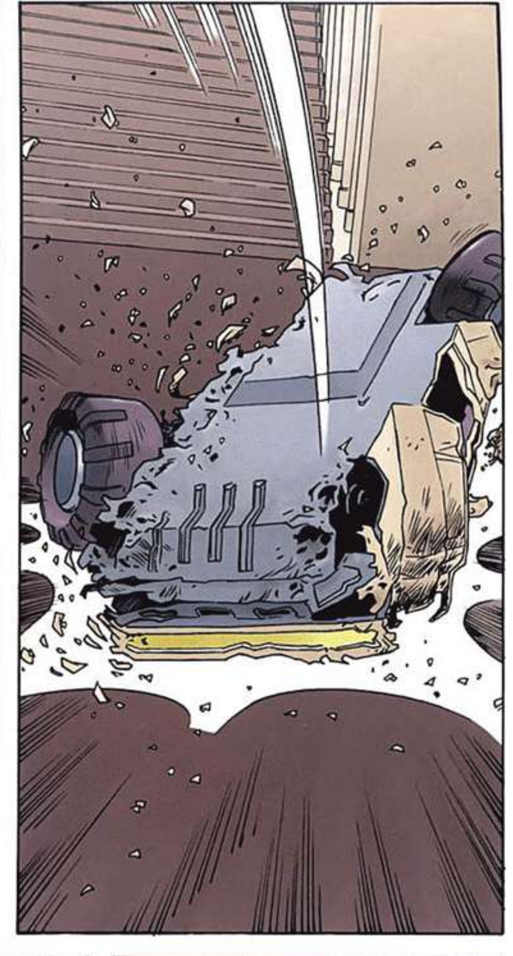


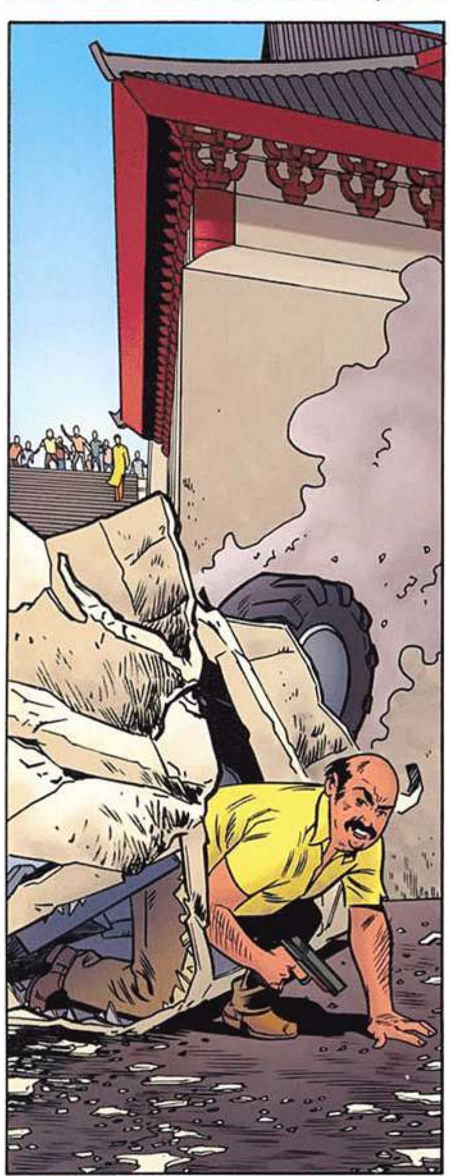








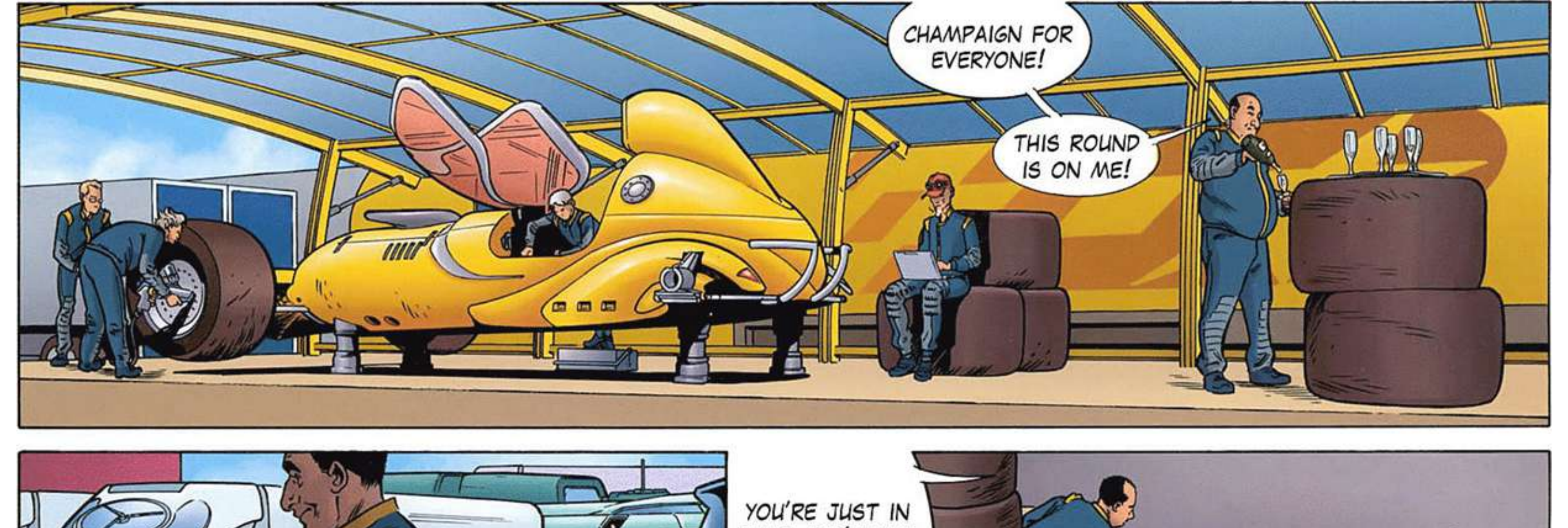


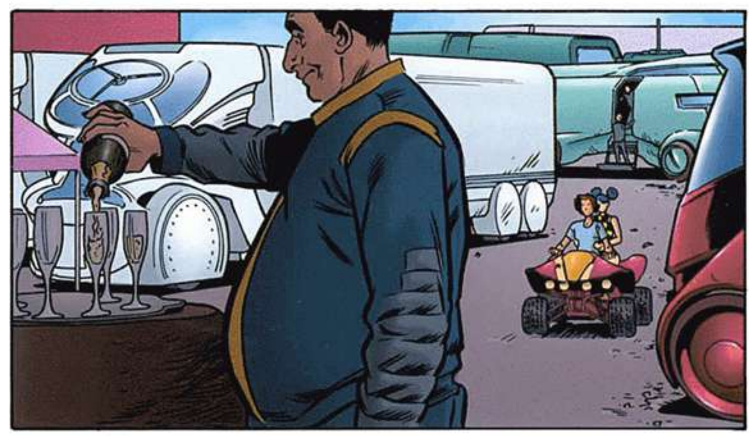





BANG! BANG!
BANG!


WE'LL MEET AGAIN, DAYTONA. I CAN WAIT...









ANOTHER ONE OF YOUR ADMIRERS, NO DOUBT!

OR A SEXY CHINESE JOURNALIST WANTING AN INTERVIEW!

GOOD LOOKING BOY LIKE THAT WILL BE FIGHTING THEM OFF!

YEAH, IT'S THE PRICE OF FAME!

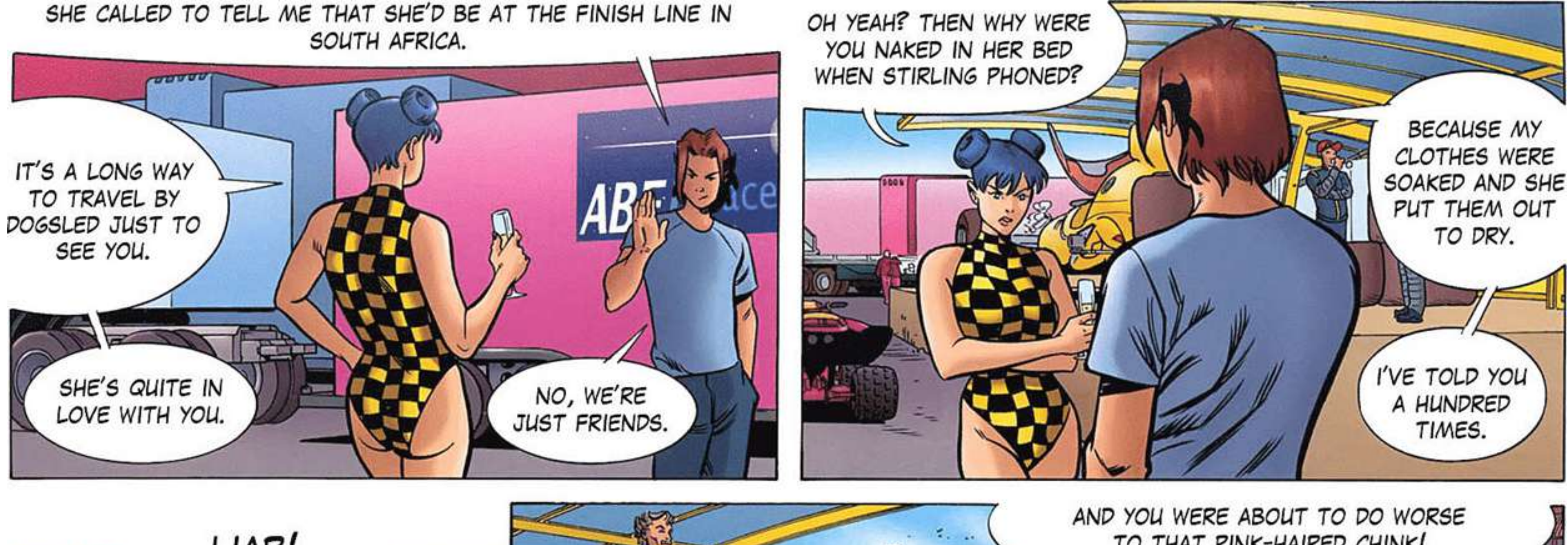
HELLO?... OH, HELLO DOUDINKA!... NO, YOU'RE NOT BOTHERING ME. ON THE CONTRARY... WHAT?... THAT'S GREAT! I LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AGAIN!

THANKS FOR CALLING WITH THE GOOD NEWS... OKAY... CALL ME ANYTIME! KISSES!

WHAT DOES THE ESKIMO WANT WITH YOU?

DON'T CALL HER THAT!

JEEZ, I WAS ONLY JOKING! WHAT DID SHE WANT?


SHE CALLED TO TELL ME THAT SHE'D BE AT THE FINISH LINE IN SOUTH AFRICA.
IT'S A LONG WAY TO TRAVEL BY DOGSLED JUST TO SEE YOU.
SHE'S QUITE IN LOVE WITH YOU.
NO, WE'RE JUST FRIENDS.
OH YEAH? THEN WHY WERE YOU NAKED IN HER BED WHEN STIRLING PHONED?
BECAUSE MY CLOTHES WERE SOAKED AND SHE PUT THEM OUT TO DRY.
I'VE TOLD YOU A HUNDRED TIMES.


LIAR! YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY SLEEPING WITH HER!
AND YOU WERE ABOUT TO DO WORSE TO THAT PINK-HAIRED CHINK!
IF I HADN'T FOLLOWED YOU, YOU'D BE BALLS DEEP RIGHT NOW!
HA! HA! HA!


FOLLOWED ME?
SHE TOLD ME STIRLING SENT HER TO FIND ME...
ME?
NO WAY!
I DIDN'T SEND HER ANYWHERE.


OH, REALLY? WHY WOULD SHE LIE?
JEALOUSY, I IMAGINE. SEEING YOU WITH THAT CUTE CHINESE JOURNALIST WAS UNBEARABLE...
SO SHE INVENTED A REASON TO BRING YOU BACK HERE.


I HATE TO RUSH YOU, MY FRIENDS, BUT THE RACE BRIEFING STARTS IN FIVE MINUTES.
YOU SHOULD PROBABLY HURRY.
HE'S RIGHT, WE CAN'T MISS IT.
THE ORGANIZERS ARE FINALLY GOING TO UNVEIL THE ROUTE FOR THE NEXT TWO STAGES.
I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE IT TOO.

THE GOLDEN CUP ISN'T JUST A UNIQUE RACE. IT'S FIRST AND FOREMOST AN EXTRAORDINARY HUMAN ADVENTURE.

A THOUSAND COMPETITORS STARTED LAST MONTH IN SOUTH AMERICA...

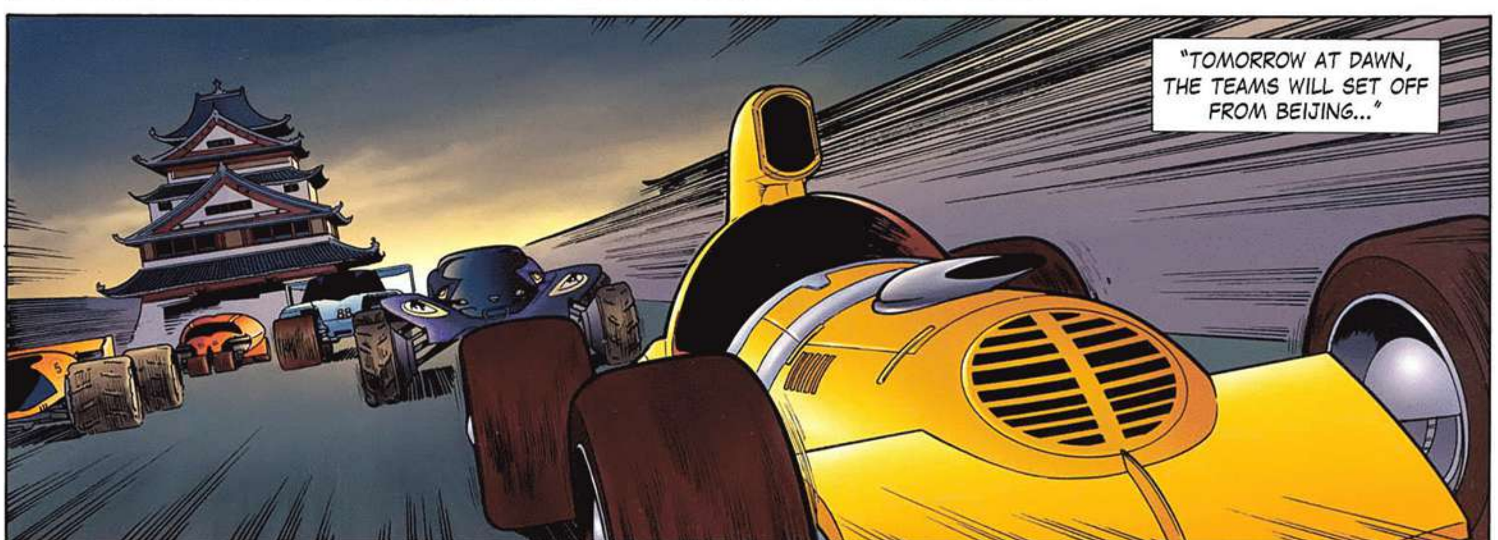
SEVEN HUNDRED HAVE ALREADY RETIRED ALONG THE ROUTE...

WHICH PROVES THE INCREDIBLE DIFFICULTY OF THE COURSE.

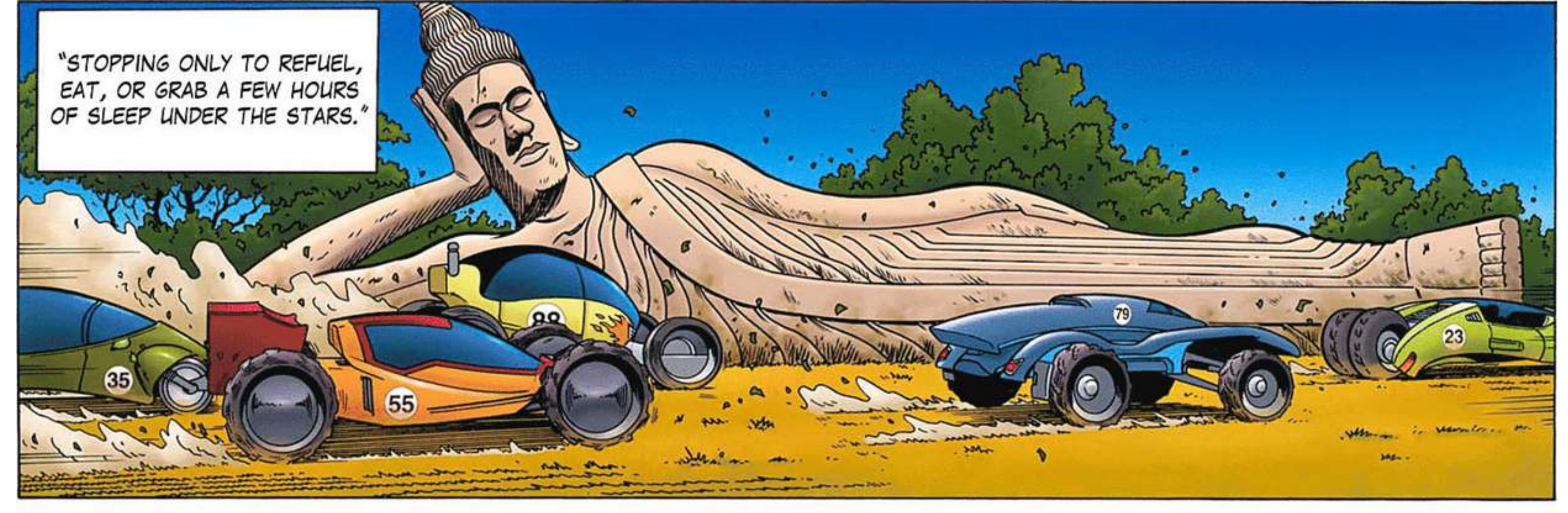
ON BEHALF OF THE ORGANIZERS I'D LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE REMAINING CREWS, FROM FIRST TO LAST. BEING HERE IS AN ACHIEVEMENT, AND YOU DESERVE A ROUND OF APPLAUSE.

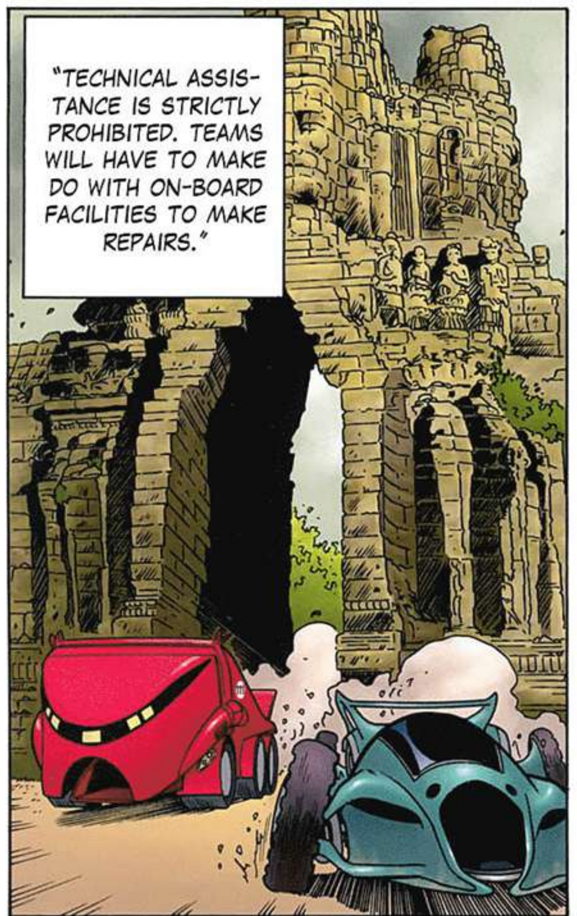
BUT THE CHALLENGE ISN'T OVER! ON THE CONTRARY...

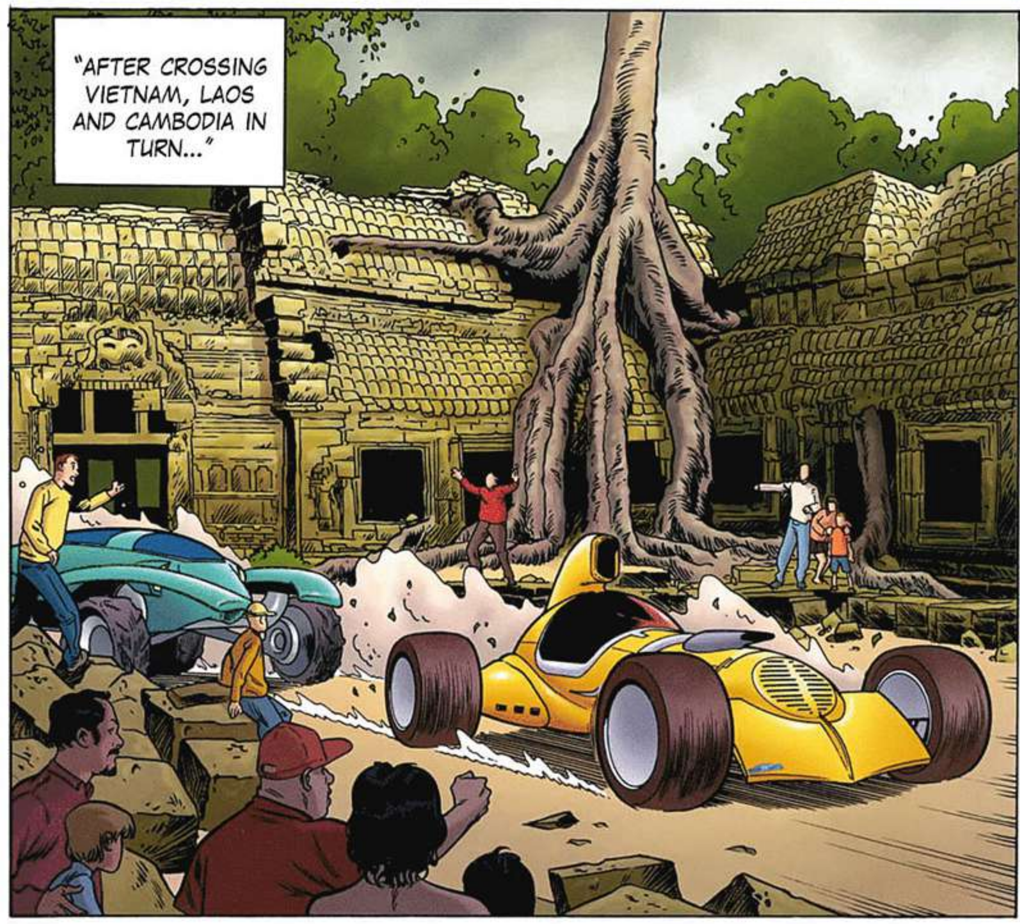
THE NEXT TWO STAGES, WHICH YOU CAN SEE ON THIS SCREEN, WILL BE DANGEROUS FOR BOTH MEN AND MACHINES.






"STOPPING ONLY TO REFUEL, EAT, OR GRAB A FEW HOURS OF SLEEP UNDER THE STARS."
35
55
88
79
23

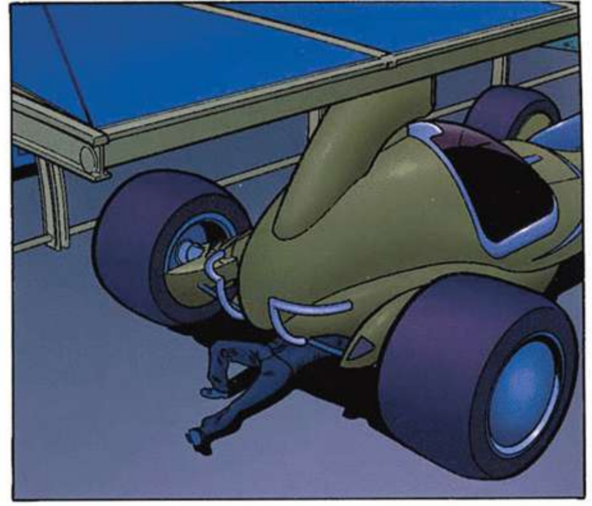

"TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. TEAMS WILL HAVE TO MAKE DO WITH ON-BOARD FACILITIES TO MAKE REPAIRS."

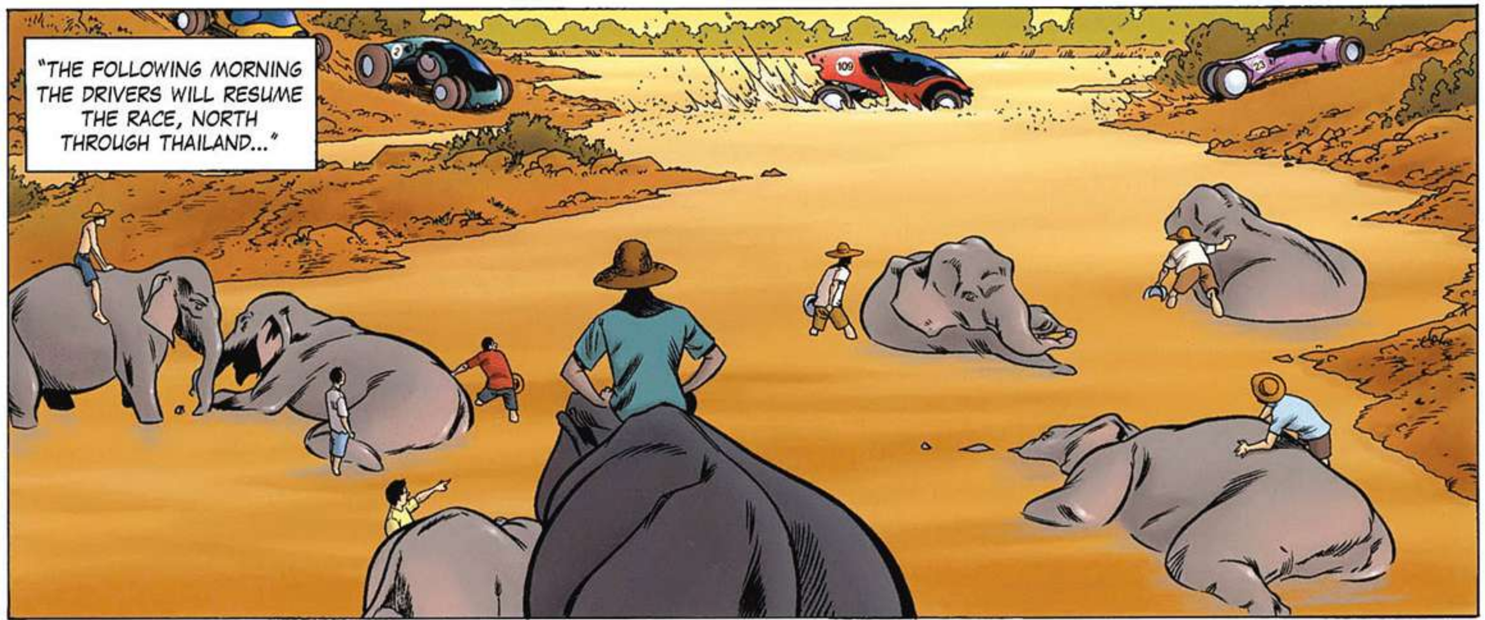

"AFTER CROSSING VIETNAM, LAOS AND CAMBODIA IN TURN..."


"...THEY'LL ARRIVE IN BANGKOK FOR A WELL DESERVED NIGHT'S REST."







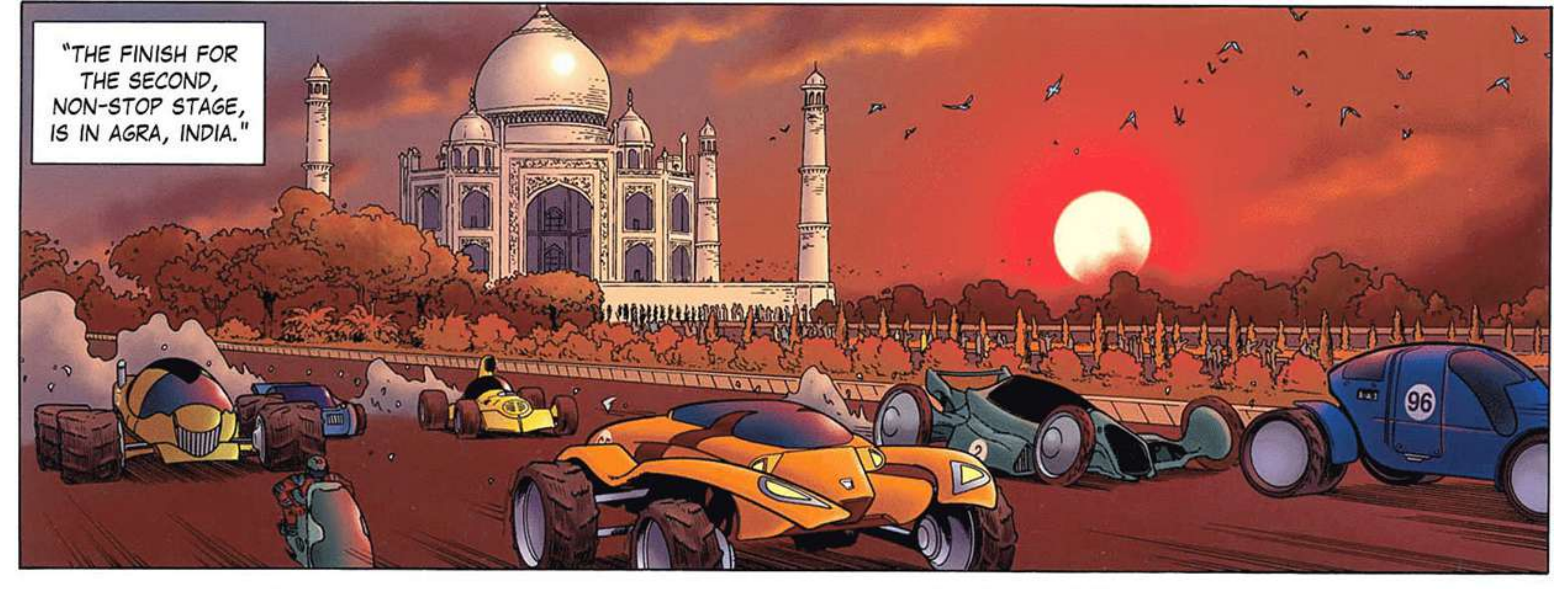


"...INTO MYANMAR AND THEN ON TO BANGLADESH."

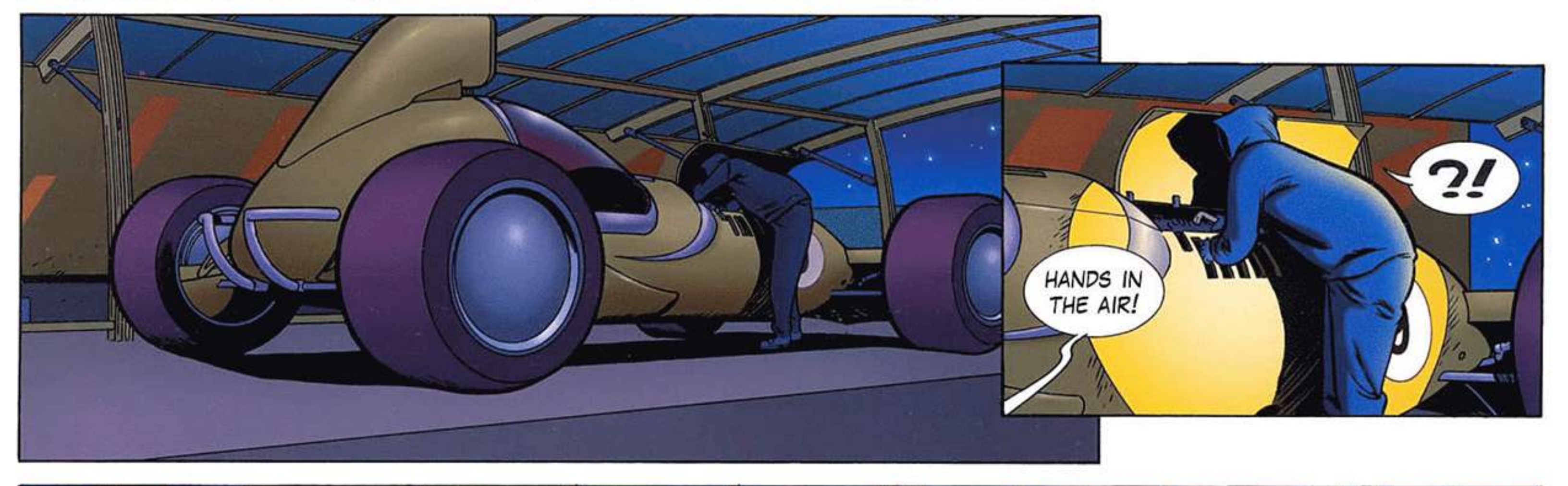
ONE OF THE NUTS CAME LOOSE AND RELEASED THE SHOCK FROM ITS SUPPORT. WE'RE LUCKY IT DIDN'T BREAK OR WE'D BE FINISHED.

HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?

I DON'T KNOW. ALL THE NUTS WERE TIGHT, I'M SURE OF IT. I CHECKED THEM MYSELF IN BANGKOK. LUCKILY I HAVE MY TOOLBOX WITH ME.


"THE FINISH FOR THE SECOND, NON-STOP STAGE, IS IN AGRA, INDIA."
96




?!
HANDS IN THE AIR!


NOW, TAKE OFF YOUR HOOD AND GIVE US A LOOK AT YOUR FACE!
9



YOU SABOTAGED OUR SUSPENSION IN BANGKOK, IS THAT RIGHT? AND WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? THE ENGINE? THE BRAKES? WHO'S PAYING YOU TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK? ONE OF THE FACTORY TEAMS?

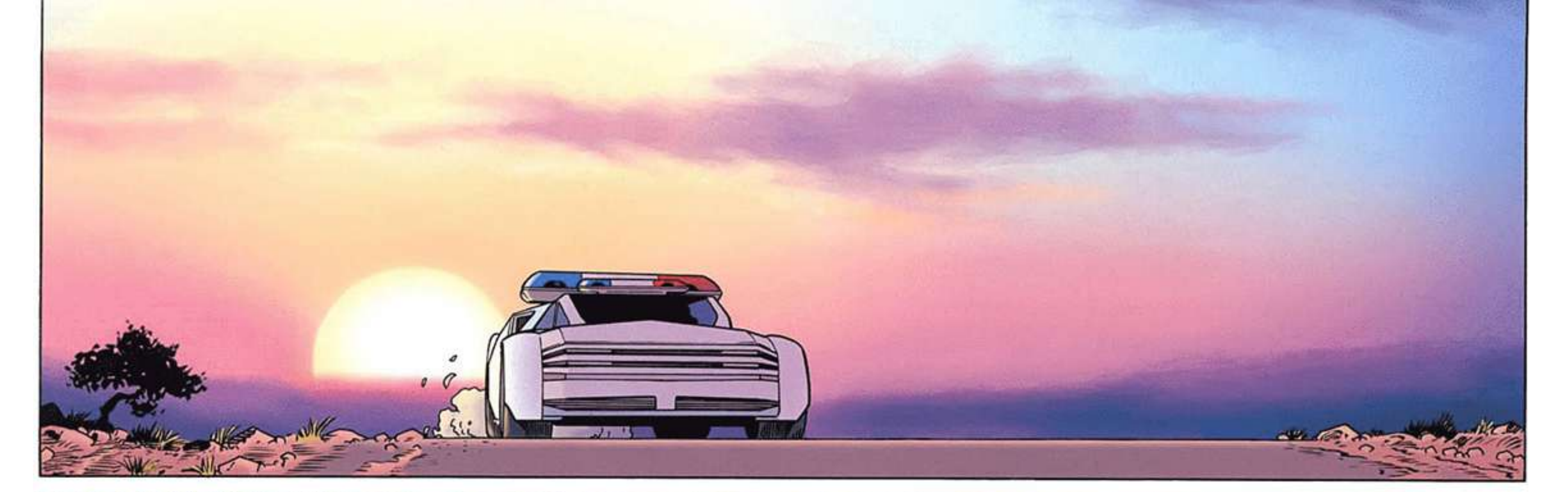


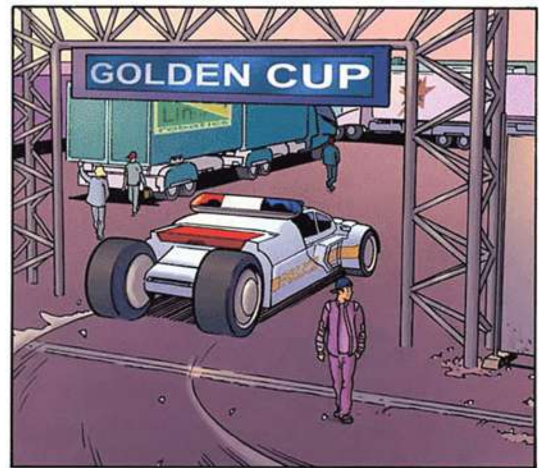


I JUST WANTED YOU TO RETIRE FROM THE RACE. SO YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT TO SOUTH AFRICA WHERE DOUDINKA IS WAITING FOR YOU.



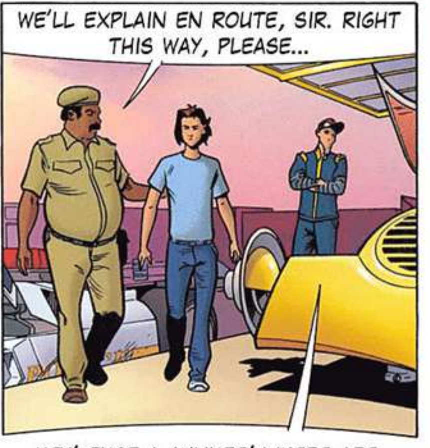
I CAN'T LIVE IN FEAR OF SABOTAGE, SO IT'S BETTER THAT YOU LEAVE. YOU AND I... IT'S FINISHED. PACK YOUR SUITCASE AND GO.




GOLDEN CUP


9
POLICE

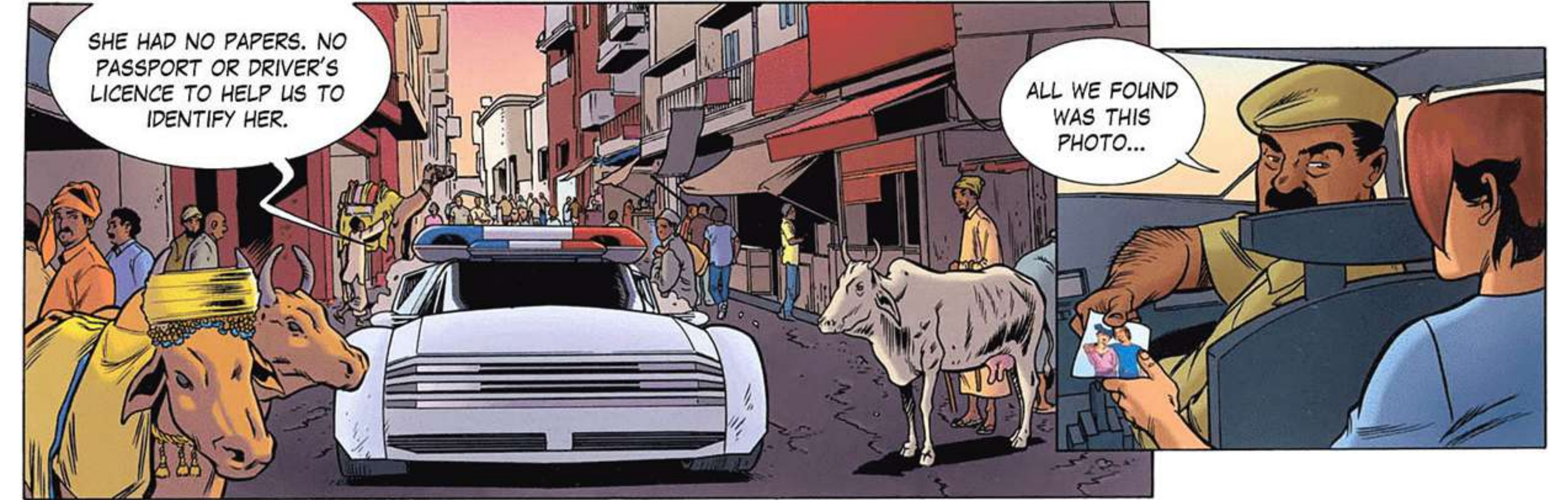

POLICE!... PLEASE COME WITH US.
ME?! WHY?


WE'LL EXPLAIN EN ROUTE, SIR. RIGHT THIS WAY, PLEASE...
HEY! JUST A MINUTE! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING MY DRIVER?


WE NEED HIS TESTIMONY. YOU CAN COME IF YOU LIKE.


POLICE
THIS MORNING, WHILE PLAYING IN A VACANT LOT, SOME KIDS FOUND THE BODY OF A YOUNG WOMAN. WE WERE IMMEDIATELY ALERTED.


THEY THOUGHT SHE WAS DEAD, BUT SHE WAS JUST UNCONSCIOUS FROM A SEVERE BEATING.
AGRA


SHE HAD NO PAPERS. NO PASSPORT OR DRIVER'S LICENCE TO HELP US TO IDENTIFY HER.
ALL WE FOUND WAS THIS PHOTO...

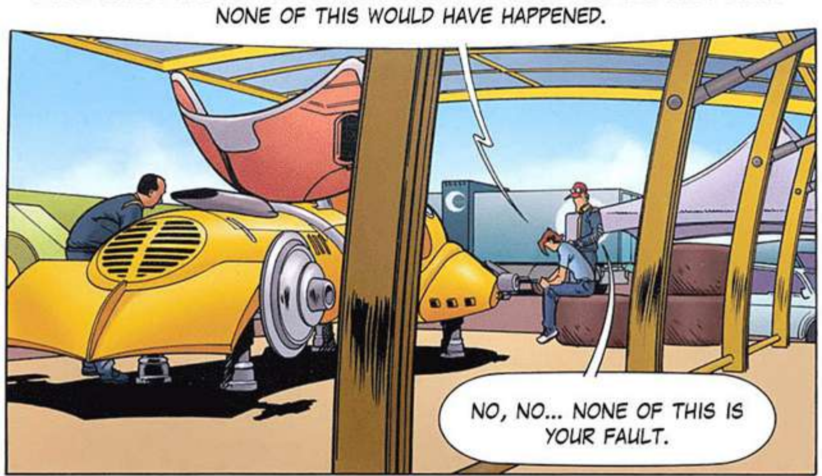



WITH ALL THE COVER-AGE OF THE GOLDEN CUP ON TELEVISION I RECOGNIZED YOU IMMEDIATELY.
पाठक हॉस्पिटल
SO WE DROVE OUT TO ENLIST YOUR HELP.


YOU SEEM TO KNOW THIS YOUNG WOMAN. CAN YOU HELP US IDENTIFY HER?
WHAT'S HER NAME?
HOLLY.

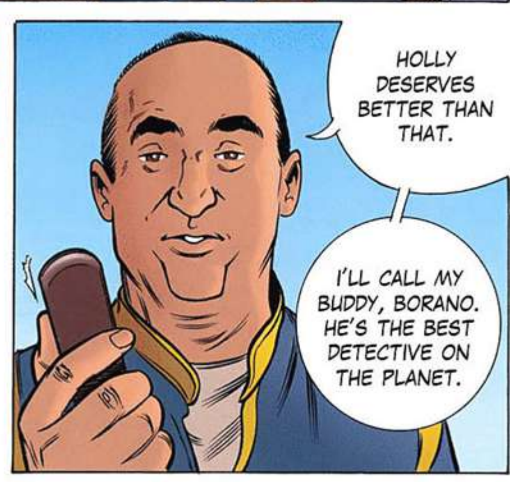

IS SHE BADLY HURT?
NO, LUCKILY HER WOUNDS ARE MOSTLY SUPERFICIAL.
BUT SHE HAS SUFFERED SIGNIFICANT EMOTIONAL TRAUMA SO THE DOCTORS HAVE SEDATED HER.


HAVE YOU FOUND HER ATTACKERS?
NOT YET, AND IT'S NOT LIKELY. FIRST, THERE WERE NO WITNESSES, AND SECOND, THIS IS JUST ONE OF MANY ASSAULTS THAT HAPPENED IN THE CITY LAST NIGHT. WE BARELY HAVE TIME TO INVESTIGATE.

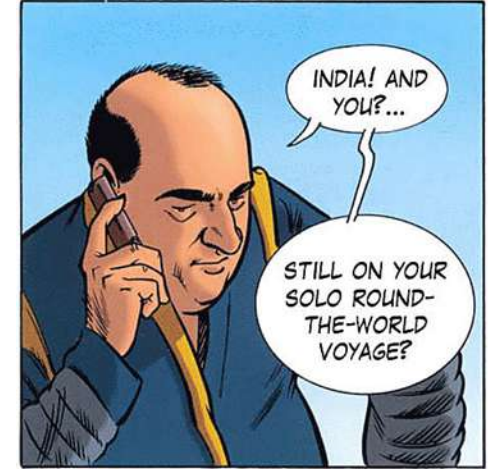


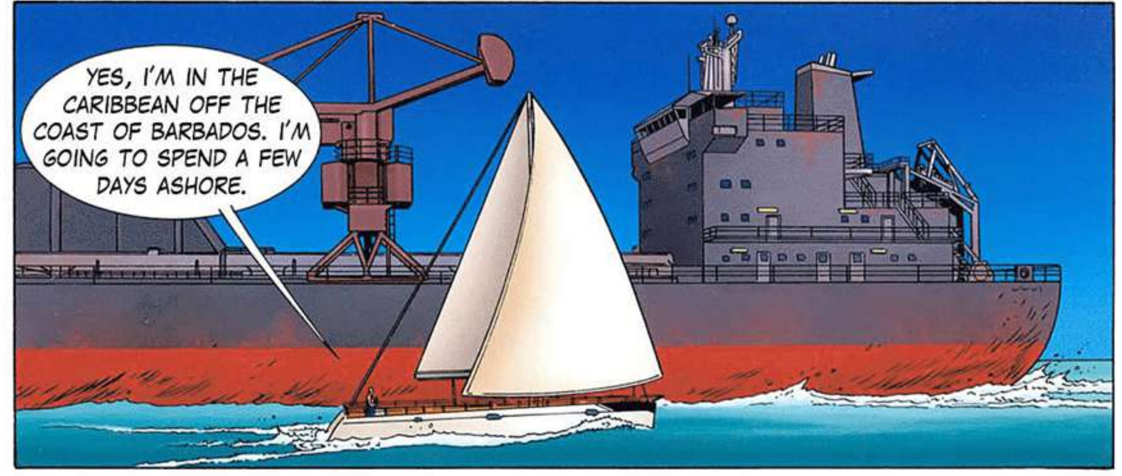


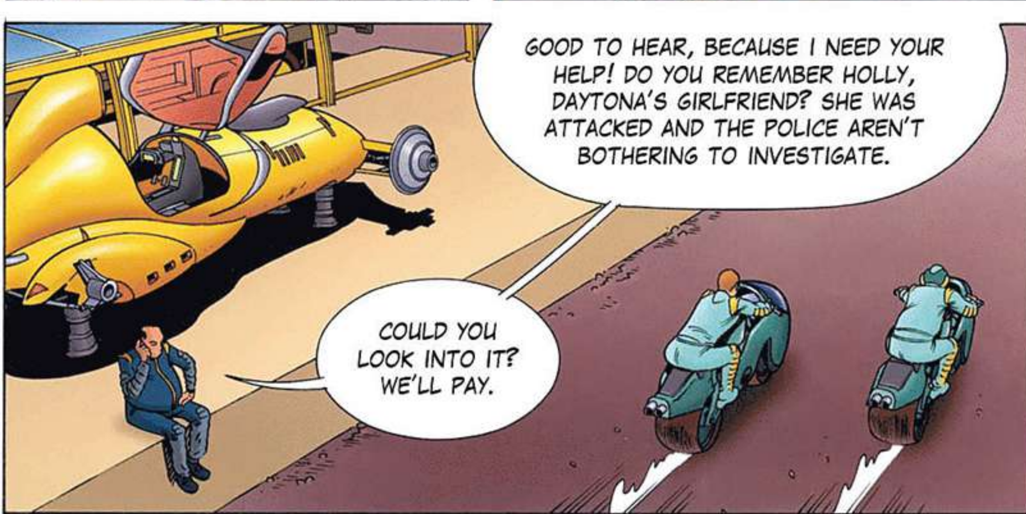




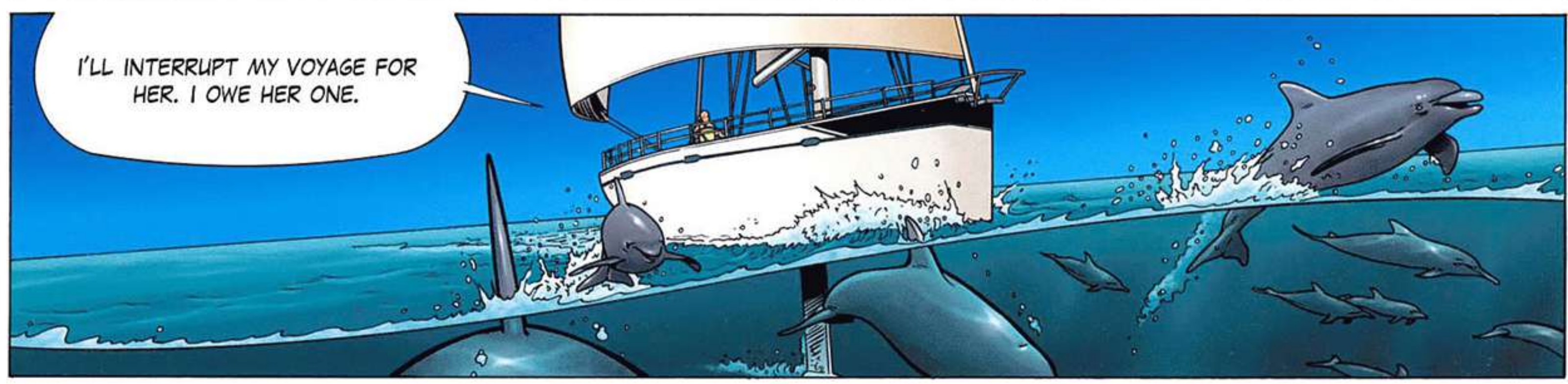
HELLO?... ROMAGNOLI! WHERE ARE YOU?

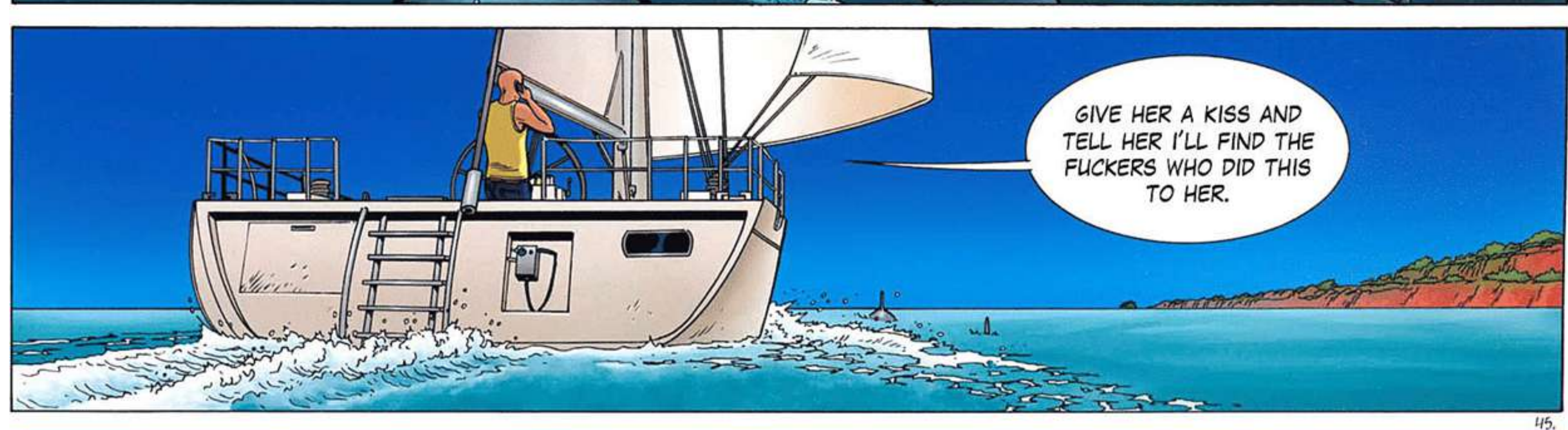

INDIA! AND YOU?...
STILL ON YOUR SOLO ROUND-THE-WORLD VOYAGE?


YES, I'M IN THE CARIBBEAN OFF THE COAST OF BARBADOS. I'M GOING TO SPEND A FEW DAYS ASHORE.

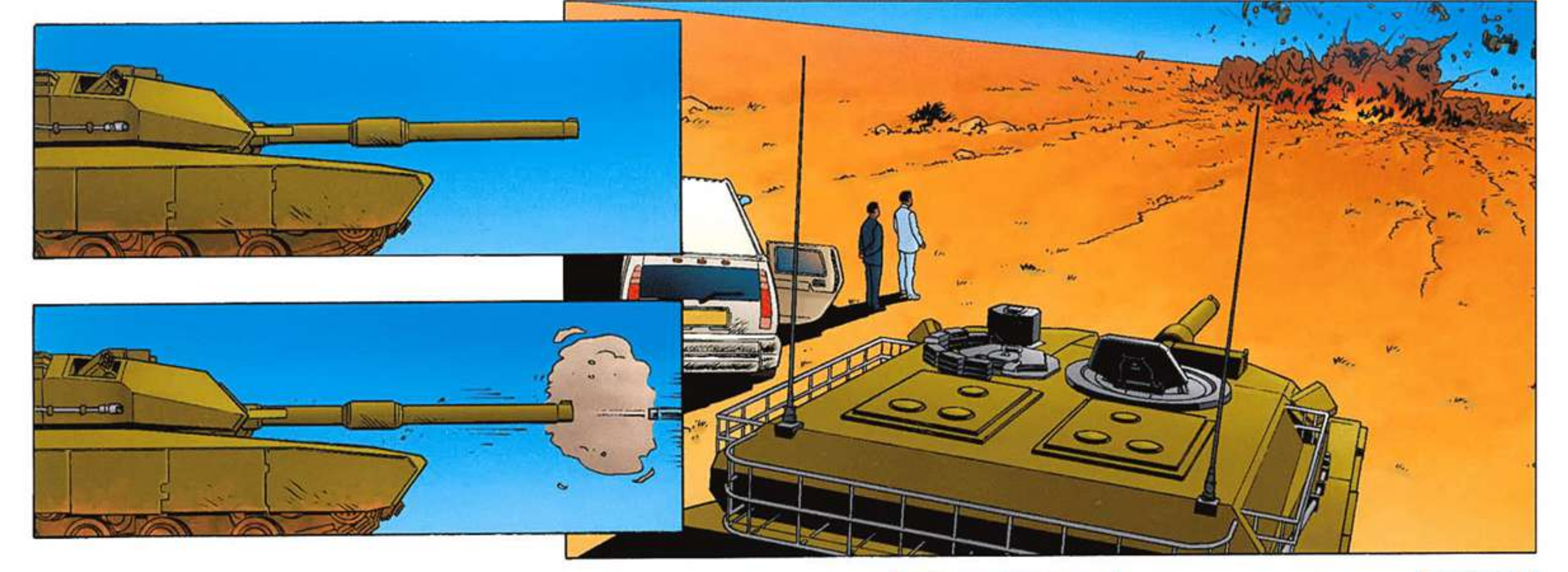

GOOD TO HEAR, BECAUSE I NEED YOUR HELP! DO YOU REMEMBER HOLLY, DAYTONA'S GIRLFRIEND? SHE WAS ATTACKED AND THE POLICE AREN'T BOTHERING TO INVESTIGATE.
COULD YOU LOOK INTO IT? WE'LL PAY.


NO! I DON'T WANT YOUR MONEY. HOLLY WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN RECOVERING KELLY STYLER...
...AND EARNING ME A HUGE REWARD FROM HER BILLION-AIRE FATHER.


I'LL INTERRUPT MY VOYAGE FOR HER. I OWE HER ONE.


GIVE HER A KISS AND TELL HER I'LL FIND THE FUCKERS WHO DID THIS TO HER.


AS SOON AS I PULL INTO PORT I'LL JUMP ON THE FIRST PLANE TO INDIA.
I'LL SEE YOU THERE.
CIAO!







HELLO?... AH, CARUSO! IS IT DONE YET?... STILL NOT? YOU REALLY SUCK. IT'S TIME FOR ME TO TAKE THINGS IN HAND, OTHERWISE YOU'LL BE AT THIS FOREVER. WHERE ARE YOU?

GOOD. WAIT FOR ME THERE. I'LL JUMP IN MY PLANE AND JOIN YOU...

PECQUEUR
HENRIET
USAGI

TO BE CONTINUED...

GOLDEN CUP

●

CHARACTERS

Daytona: This wizard behind the wheel has always dreamed of becoming a racing driver and champion.

Stirling Sullivan: A passionate and kindly old-mechanic who designed his own race car to compete in the Golden Cup.

Holly: Daytona's love interest. She guards him jealously and will let no other girl approach.

Brenda: A powerful and sexy woman of questionable morals who's driving a bomb around the world.

THE STORY

After leaving South America, the Golden Cup competitors have raced through the United States, Canada, Alaska, the Bering Strait and Russia before reaching China. Of the thousand crews that started, seven hundred have already abandoned the race. But the worst is yet to come for the survivors as they'll now face the dreaded Gobi desert!

●

FROM THE SAME SERIES AS:

GOLDEN CITY

